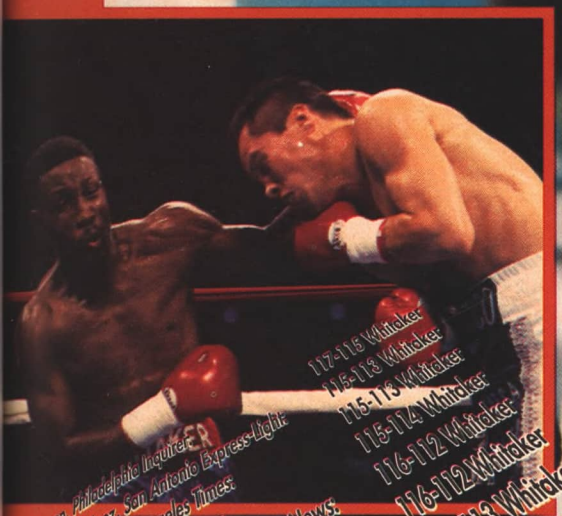
January 1994

STATE OF THE GAME
Exclusive Annual Report

The RING

"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"



WAS PERNELL WHITAKER ROBBED IN SAN ANTONIO?

The Answer's In The Cards

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Richard Martinez, San Antonio Express-News: 115-113 Whitaker
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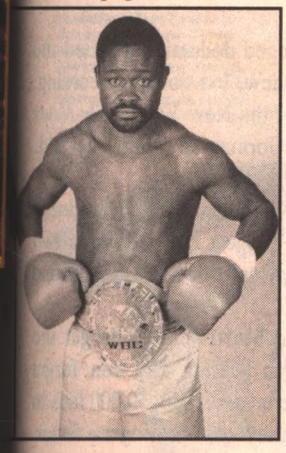

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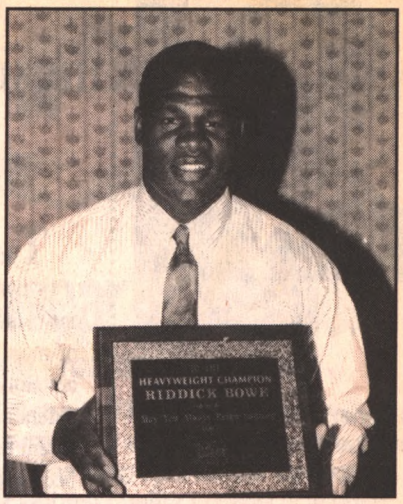

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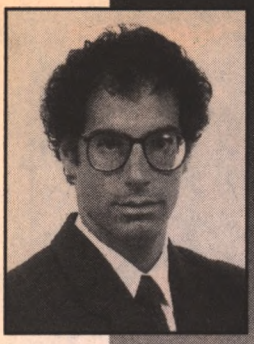

Ringside

The dirt's too thick to sweep under the rug, so let's remember the Alamodome:

•"Sweet Pea" humbled Julio from here to Culiacan, but I don't think the fight was fixed, at least i the classic sense. Whether judges Mickey Vann and Franz Marti felt subtle pressure from (choose on or more) Jose Sulaiman, Don King, or the crowd to keep Chavez unbeaten is another matter. I ca certainly understand all the cynicism: Vann and Marti are WBC judges, and while Whitaker was th defending WBC champion, Chavez was the WBC *fighter*. By the way, I did some research, and th recent title fight performances of the two judges in question, both of whom also work as referees, ha been without incident.

•If the decision raised questions concerning Vann's competence, an unlikely postfight scenari raised questions concerning his credibility. Ken Gorman of the *Star* of London said he interviewe Vann immediately after the bout and quoted him thusly: "I deducted a point from Whitaker for a appallingly low blow in the sixth round. The referee did not issue a formal warning, but I took th point from him anyway."

A judge, of course, cannot deduct points on his own, and the alleged deduction affected th outcome. Vann denied talking to Gorman, who has notes of the interview, but no tape recordin Who's telling the truth? I don't know Gorman, so I called Mike Katz of the New York *Daily Ne* and asked him about the veteran Welsh writer. "I will swear on Ken Gorman any time," he sai That's good enough for me.

•Joe Cortez is one of the best referees in boxing, but after warning Whitaker at least half-a-doz times for punching low, he should have deducted a point. The rules suggest a penalty after tw warnings. Had Cortez been more stringent, Chavez would have won by split decision. On secon thought, maybe it's better the referee was so tolerant.

•Forget what Whitaker and Chavez said. Forget what Vann and Marti scored. Forget th CompuBox totals, the slow-motion replays, and Don King's motives. In judging who won, forg everything but the fact that Whitaker took the crowd out of the fight. There were about 60,000 fans attendance, and 59,500 were rooting for Chavez. By the middle rounds they were no longer a factu And after the decision was announced, they left the arena either relieved, confused, or embarrasse But none left thinking Chavez had earned a draw. Of this I'm sure: I spoke to a bunch of them.

•In case you haven't noticed, certain members of the media tend to criticize and condemn mu more quickly than they compliment or credit. Maybe that's why some felt obliged to knock Chav first and then, and only then, praise Whitaker. Don't believe everything you read. Chavez fought well as could be expected. He tried a variety of tactics, pressured Whitaker for all 12 rounds, a never seemed overly discouraged. He wasn't slow to pull the trigger, and there weren't signs of h impending demise. He just got outboxed by the slickest little fighter this side of Willie Pep. Chavez' world of macho, Whitaker's effort was easily dismissed. But in my world, it rates as one the greatest performances of the last 20 years. I don't need the judges to confirm by belief, and I don think Whitaker needs them, either.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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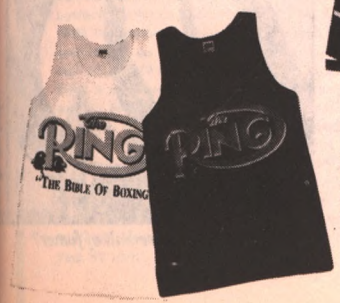

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Come Out Writing

What a unified champion looks l

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

ONE CHAMP PER DIVISION

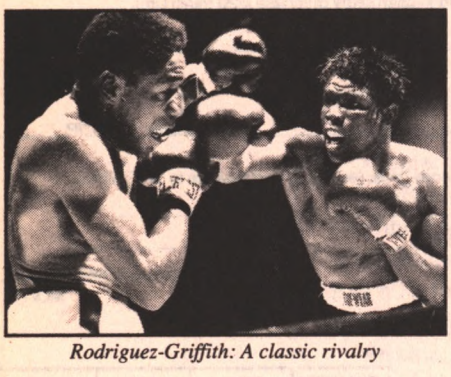
Boxing's greatest problems are information overload and a resulting decrease in respect for titles. The cure: creating motivation for champions to engage in unification bouts. I propose the International Boxing Hall of Fame or THE RING create a single belt for each weight class and name it for a great fighter. (The Sullivan belt for heavyweights, the Robinson belt for middleweights, etc.)

The belts would be awarded only when a title is unified. The key is that the existing alphabet organization would not be threatened. Once someone has won the prestigious Robinson belt, for instance, it would not automatically b awarded to the fighter who defeats him. If a unified champion loses a WBC-sanctioned defense, th Robinson belt returns to the Hall of Fame or THE RING for safekeeping until the unification proce starts all over again. The belt represents only a unified division, not a "new" title.

Let's give world champions reason to try and unify the world titles. And let's do so without askin the WBA, WBC, and IBF to compromise their positions of power or submerge their identities. Mayb boxing can then become part of the 21st century, leaving the clutter and pettiness of 1993 behind.

JOSEPH C. EARLS
Fiskdale, MA

UNRIVALED RIVALRIES



Rodriguez-Griffith: A classic rivalry

There are many things in boxing that totally disgust me, but nothing more tha fighters' unwillingness to get it on, as referee Mills Lane would say.

Whatever happened to the great three- and four-fight rivalries that characterized th sport just a couple of decades ago? Where are the Ali-Frazier bloodfests? What abo Pep-Saddler? Rodriguez-Griffith? Robinson-LaMotta? Graziano-Zale?

It seems like the world's top fighters avoid each other merely so they can keep the undefeated records intact. They are cowards who, like Joey Gamache, seek the easie road to world titles. In the old days, all the politics in the world wouldn't hav prevented Graziano and Zale from fighting each other. Neither was afraid to duke it o a second or third time.

Of course, there are exceptions. Julio Cesar Chavez is afraid of no man, and h wanted a rematch with Meldrick Taylor almost as much as Taylor did. But because politics, the bout was never made.

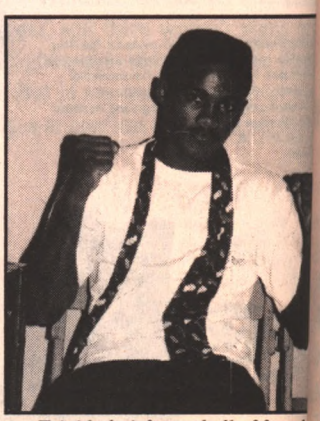
This generation has been denied the great sequels that were once common. I getting tough to remain a fan.

PAUL MINNIS
Haubstadt, MN

TRINIDAD'S FOR REAL

I still wasn't sure when Felix Trinidad stopped the faded Maurice Blocker to win the IBF welterweight title. But in his first defense, he destroyed Luis Garcia in the most brutal fashion I've ever seen. Trinidad is just a kid, and he's got it all, with speed like Leonard and power like a young Hearns or Duran. Barring injury or other obstacles, he might become a legend. He's sure going to be something to watch.

RONNIE SPICER
Huntsville, MO ■



Trinidad: A future hall of famer?

Volume 73, No. 1 January 1994

The RING

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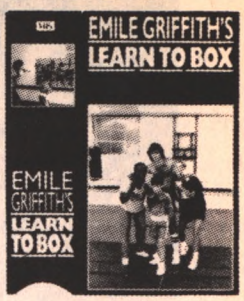

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Round One

ROCK EROSION

In the ring, Rocky Marciano's accomplishments made him different: He wa victorious in all 49 of his pro bouts; he won the world heavyweight title with a 13th round knockout of Jersey Joe Walcott in September 1952; he made six defenses befor retiring at age 32. But what really made Marciano unique was the fact that despite stream of lucrative offers, he *stayed* retired. The Rock died in a plane crash in Augus 1969, one day before his 46th birthday. He would have turned 70 on September 1.

According to *Sports Illustrated's* William Nack, we never realized just ho different Marciano was. In a controversial profile that ran in *SI's* August 23 issue Nack portrayed Marciano as an obsessive figure who hoarded $100 bills in odd an mysterious ways, socialized with hoodlums, invested heavily in a loan sharkin operation, and regularly engaged in his prodigious sexual appetite.

"Rocky constantly had orgies and parties, day and night," Richie Paterniti, one Marciano's best friends, was quoted saying. " ... A friend of mine in Ne York got me and Rocky thousands girls. Honestly, literally a thousan girls."

Is Marciano's legend on rocky ground?

After the story was published, how ever, Paterniti claimed Nack told onl some of the story.

"[Nack] distorted everything I said, he told the *Boston Globe*. "Rocky wa intelligent, kind, generous. But this gu didn't want to hear about that. He was o a mission to destroy Rocky."

"Rocky may not have been a saint, bu this is a little distorted," said Pete Marciano, Rocky's brother. "My broth was a beautiful man, no matter wh *Sports Illustrated* says."

Nack's response: "The family is upset and I understand why. I showed a side Rocky they maybe didn't even know themselves. But I just followed my reporting. wanted to capture what he was like."

REGAINING HIS WINGS

At the weigh-in for the Pernell Whitaker-Julio Cesar Chavez superfight there was a scen reminiscent of a time long passed, when Hector Camacho was still Macho, and Aaron "Th Hawk" Pryor could still soar. Pryor, who was snapping photos of the proceedings, an Camacho, who was busy being Camacho, spotted each other by the scale, smiled, an hugged. The former world champions never traded punches, but nonetheless unmistakab share a bond.

Pryor's appearance at the biggest fight of the year was refreshing. The former juni welterweight champion hasn't been particularly visible in recent years. His wel

documented battle against drugs often seeming to overwhelm him. But The Hawk says he's been clean for 18 months. "One day at a time," he reports.

Pryor was in San Antonio to work with 1992 bronze medalist Tim Austin, who scored a first-round kayo in a bantamweight bout on the Whitaker-Chavez undercard. For eight months he's been assisting John Falcone, head trainer and manager of Cincinnati's North Side Boxing Club. Pryor said Falcone tests him for drugs once a week.

"I like training fighters pretty good," he says. "I've been enjoying myself. Being in boxing is what I do best. I love boxing. Hopefully, when I'm 75, I'll be ready to fight again."

The Hawk smiled, and looked good doing it.

—Steve Farhood

Rosales with Raton Macias in 1957

PANCHO ROSALES: 1907-1993

Powerful Mexican manager Francisco "Pancho" Rosales died at age 85 after heart failure. Rosales was working in the gym on August 30 when he became ill. He was rushed to a Mexico City hospital, where three days later he died.

Rosales was the last member of Mexico's mighty triumvirate of managers, which included Cuyo Hernandez and Lupe Sanchez. Over the last four decades, the trio made Mexico a boxing powerhouse second only to its neighbor to the north.

Rosales was Mexico's first manager-promoter. He handled 23 national champions, the most recent of whom was 115-pounder Armando "Monstruo" Castro.

More impressive was the talent he unleashed at the world-class level: Ruben Olivares, Raton Macias, Alfonso Zamora, Luis "Kid Azteca" Villanueva, Ultiminio Ramos, Baby Arizmendi, and several others. He also guided reigning WBC lightweight champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez.

"Don Pancho was like a second father to me," Gonzalez said at Rosales' funeral. "He trained me since I was 15 years old, and things were always good between us. He gave me counsel, and thanks to him I accomplished good things."

The last "Grand Old Man" of Mexican boxing has passed.

—Bruce Williams

THE PUNCHLINE

"This is the first time in history that a defendant will be legally empowered to give a beating to the witness against him."—Promoter Bob Arum on the Ray Mercer-Jesse Ferguson rematch, scheduled for November 19 in Atlantic City. Don't ever let it be said Arum takes boxing too seriously: The bout was announced at the county courthouse in Newark, New Jersey. ■

AL KRATZER'S VIEW

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended
September 15, 1993

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

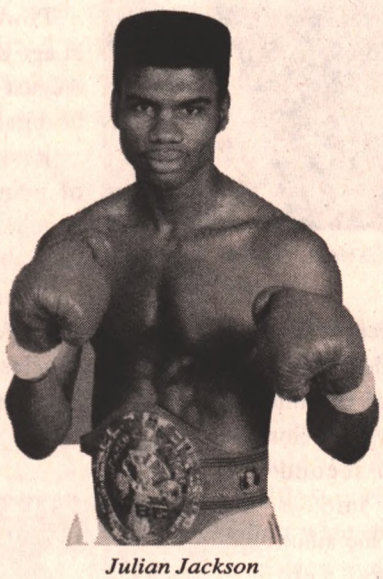
Ratings By The Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Fort Washington, MD *34-0 (WBA/IBF Cha*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS**
   England *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Atlanta, GA *29-1*
4. **TOMMY MORRISON**
   Merriam, KS *37-1*
5. **MICHAEL MOORER**
   Detroit, MI *33-0*
6. **GEORGE FOREMAN**
   Marshall, TX *72-4*
7. **OLIVER McCALL**
   Chicago, IL *22-5*
8. **FRANK BRUNO**
   England *36-3*
9. **PHIL JACKSON**
   Miami, FL *29-1*
10. **MIKE HUNTER**
    Las Vegas, NV *21-3-2*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL *23-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **GERALD McCLELLAN**
   Freeport, IL *29-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX *34-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JULIAN JACKSON**
   Virgin Islands *47-2*
5. **THOMAS TATE**
   Houston, TX *29-2*
6. **LAMAR PARKS**
   Greeneville, SC *26-1*
7. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA *23-2*
8. **VINNY PAZIENZA**
   Cranston, RI *34-5*
9. **OTIS GRANT**
   Canada *21-0*
10. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON**
    Seattle, WA *28-0*



Julian Jackson

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *36-3 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *44-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **GIANFRANCO ROSI**
   Italy *57-3 (IBF Champ)*
4. **VERNON PHILLIPS**
   New York, NY *19-5*
5. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *30-1*
6. **AARON DAVIS**
   Bronx, NY *38-2*
7. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *24-1*
8. **GILBERT DELE**
   France *33-3-1*
9. **SIMON BROWN**
   Germantown, MD *38-2*
10. **RONALD WRIGHT**
    St. Petersburg, FL *21-0*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

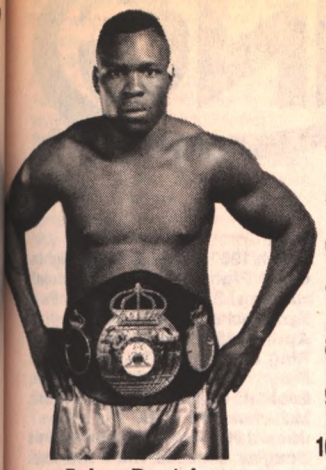
1. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico *30-3-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *33-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **YUNG KYUN PARK**
   South Korea *25-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX *26-0-2*
5. **PAUL HODKINSON**
   England *22-2-1*
6. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *36-0*
7. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *28-2-2*
8. **COLIN McMILLAN**
   England *23-2*
9. **FRANCISCO SEGURA**
   Coachella, CA *22-6-1*
10. **CESAR SOTO**
    Mexico *35-5-2*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Las Vegas, NV *24-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *47-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILFREDO VASQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *37-6-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *31-1*
5. **JESUS SALUD**
   San Diego, CA *45-5*
6. **JULIO GERVACIO**
   Puerto Rico *27-3-2*
7. **JESSE BENAVIDES**
   Corpus Christi, TX *37-3-1*
8. **LUIS MENDOZA**
   Colombia *34-4-2*
9. **DUKE McKENZIE**
   England *33-4*
10. **MAUI DIAZ**
    San Jose, CA *25-0*

BANTAMWEIGHT
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **ORLANDO CANIZALE**
   Laredo, TX *34-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *30-0*
3. **ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *24-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JUNG IL BYUN**
   South Korea *10-0 (WBC Cham*
5. **JOICHIRO TATSUYO**
   Japan *9-1-1 (Interim WBC Cha*
6. **RAFAEL DEL VALLE**
   Puerto Rico *15-0*
7. **VICTOR RABANALE**
   Mexico *33-12-2*
8. **VINCENZO BELCAST**
   Italy *25-5-3*
9. **EDDIE COOK**
   Las Vegas, NV *18-2*
10. **HAROLD MESTRE**
    Colombia *17-2*



Robert Daniels

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS**
   Campo, CA *37-3*
2. **ANACLET WAMBA**
   France *39-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **AL COLE**
   Spring Valley, NY *23-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
   Las Vegas, NV *19-1-1*
5. **BOBBY CZYZ**
   Montgomery County, NJ *40-5*
6. **NATE MILLER**
   Philadelphia, PA *23-3*
7. **AKIM TAFER**
   France *17-3*
8. **MARCELO FIGUEROA**
   Argentina *32-3*
9. **ROBERT DANIELS**
   Miami, FL *24-2-1*
10. **MASSIMILIANO DURAN**
    Italy *19-4*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND *36-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **HENRY MASKE**
   Germany *20-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JEFF HARDING**
   Australia *23-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
   Mansfield, OH *34-5-2*
5. **LEEONZER BARBER**
   Detroit, MI *17-1*
6. **MIKE McCALLUM**
   Brooklyn, NY *45-2-1*
7. **FRANK TATE**
   Houston, TX *34-3*
8. **ERNESTO MAGDALENO**
   Westminster, CA *16-0-1*
9. **EGERTON MARCUS**
   Canada *11-0*
10. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
    France *25-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JAMES TONEY**
   Ann Arbor, MI *40-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **MICHAEL NUNN**
   Davenport, IA *41-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK**
   England *36-0*
4. **NIGEL BENN**
   England *34-2 (WBC Champ)*
5. **TIM LITTLES**
   Flint, MI *23-0*
6. **VICTOR CORDOBA**
   N. Ireland *19-5-2*
7. **DARRIN VAN HORN**
   Lexington, KY *53-3*
8. **TONY THORNTON**
   Glassboro, NJ *32-5-1*
9. **FRANK LILES**
   N. Hollywood, CA *24-1*
10. **ANTOINE BYRD**
    Los Angeles, CA *24-4-1*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *32-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *21-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
   N. Ireland *29-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **BUDDY McGIRT**
   Hauppauge, NY *58-3-1*
5. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *52-0*
6. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *17-0-1*
7. **DAVID GONZALEZ**
   Houston, TX *33-2-1*
8. **LARRY BARNES**
   Mt. Vernon, NY *29-1*
9. **SANTOS CARDONA**
   Puerto Rico *28-3*
10. **KEVIN POMPEY**
    Troy, NY *28-4-2*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *87-0-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina *63-2-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *30-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *10-0*
5. **ZACK PADILLA**
   Azusa, CA *17-1-1*
6. **CARLOS GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *36-1*
7. **TERRENCE ALLI**
   Linden, NJ *52-8-2*
8. **HECTOR LOPEZ**
   Tarzana, CA *26-2*
9. **DAVID KAMAU**
   Los Angeles, CA *20-0*
10. **ROGER MAYWEATHER**
    Las Vegas, NV *44-9*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *29-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL *35-17-4 (IBF Champ)*
3. **DINGAAN THOBELA**
   South Africa *29-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *38-1*
5. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Takoma Park, MD *29-0*
6. **TONY LOPEZ**
   Sacramento, CA *42-4-1*
7. **NAZAROV OLZUBEK**
   Japan *17-0*
8. **JOEY GAMACHE**
   Lewiston, ME *32-1*
9. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *44-4-2*
10. **MIGUEL JULIO**
    Colombia *23-1-1*

Oscar De La Hoya

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

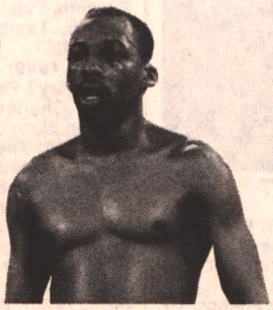
1. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *36-2-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *28-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *32-3 (IBF Champ)*
4. **CALVIN GROVE**
   Coatesville, PA *44-5*
5. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *34-2*
6. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Montebello, CA *10-0*
7. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ**
   Argentina *36-1-1*
8. **RENATO CORNETT**
   Australia *23-1-1*
9. **REGILIO TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY *32-3-1*
10. **MARCOS GUEVARA**
    Venezuela *20-2*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **SUNG KIL MOON**
   South Korea *20-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
   Japan *21-0 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO BORBOA**
   Mexico *20-4 (IBF Champ)*
4. **KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM**
   Thailand *44-3*
5. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *27-0*
6. **ROBERT QUIROGA**
   San Antonio, TX *20-1*
7. **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
   Denmark *18-0*
8. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *30-4-3*
9. **KOTARO HAYASHI**
   Japan *12-3*
10. **JOEL LUNA ZARATE**
    Mexico *21-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *16-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **DAVID GRIMAN**
   Venezuela *16-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN**
   Thailand *15-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA *33-4-1*
5. **RODOLFO BLANCO**
   Colombia *26-7-1*
6. **DAVE McAULEY**
   Ireland *18-3-2*
7. **JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA**
   Mexico *23-11-2*
8. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *15-1*
9. **SCOTTY OLSON**
   Las Vegas, NV *26-1*
10. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
    Jasper, TN *10-0*



Eric Griffin

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *28-0 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *36-2*
3. **LEON SALAZAR**
   Panama *15-3-1*
4. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *36-4-3*
5. **SHIRO YAHIRO**
   Japan *17-0-1*
6. **JOSE DeJESUS**
   Puerto Rico *26-2-1*
7. **DOMINGO SOSA**
   Dominican Republic *19-1*
8. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico *21-5*
9. **ROBINSON CUESTA**
   Panama *23-1*
10. **LEO GAMEZ**
    Venezuela *24-3*

POUND FOR POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
2. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Junior Welterweight
3. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
4. **JAMES TONEY**
   Super Middleweight
5. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Junior Flyweight
6. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Bantamweight
7. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Heavyweight
8. **ROY JONES**
   Middleweight
9. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Junior Featherweight
10. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
    Strawweight

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Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

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May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

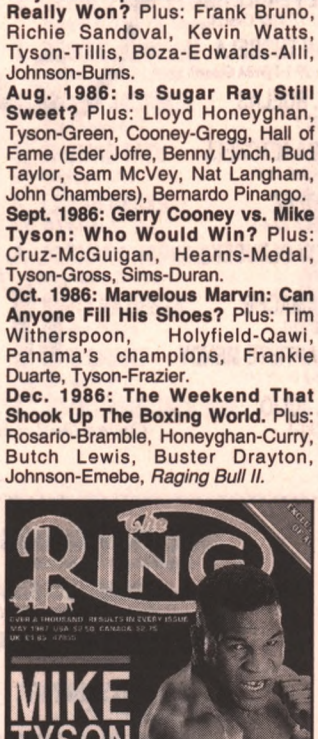
July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, *Raging Bull II.*



MAY 1987

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

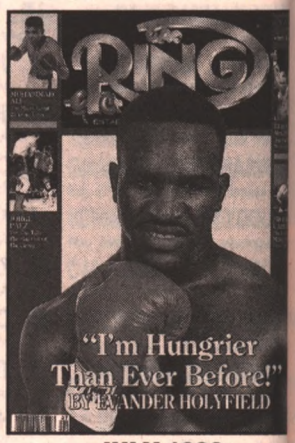
Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target...Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s-Great Fighti Great Fighters (color). Plus: Je Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pe Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker-Th Ring Fighter Of The Year (colo Plus: Chavez-Taylor previe Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowe Muhammad Ali.

June 1990: Buster! How Jame Douglas Shocked The World. Pl Michael Moorer, Camacho-Pae Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tige Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.



JULY 1990

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ev Before!" By Evander Holyfiel Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, A Liston II, New York welters, Micha Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

Aug. 1990: His Greatne Confirmed ... Is Julio Ce Chavez The Greatest Mexic Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Sa Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyso Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Ham Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can I Resist The Irresistible Temptatio Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanche Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMo (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks For Th Memories: Rocky Graziano, 19 1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tys Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Forema Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast Fro The Past? Plus: Marciano-LaStar boxing's best chins, Azumah Nels Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Ann Report: The State Of The Gam Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfi preview, Marciano-Frazier, Dougl Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest B Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His O Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jim Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Demps Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight Ring covers (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez-The Ring Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

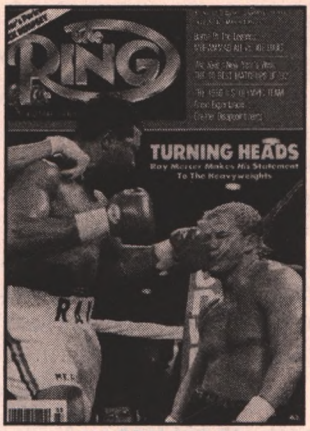
Aug. 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, overrated and underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).



MARCH 1992

March 1992: Turning Heads-Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Yuh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: After Mike Tyson's Conviction: What Now? Plus: Buck Smith, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder & Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Foreman-Liston, Tyson (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Larry Holmes On The Big Fight: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Carnival of Champions, Oscar De La Hoya, Haugen-Mancini, Foreman-Stewart, Harry Greb, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Julio Cesar Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Fight The Legends? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez & Nicky Acevedo, alternate careers, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).

Dec. 1992: Foreman vs. Morrison: Should This Fight Happen ... Will You Watch It? Plus: Ruddock-Lewis preview, Julian Jackson, Al Cole, Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey Museum, Randolph Turpin, Olympic recap, Floyd Patterson (color).

Jan. 1993: Slammin' 'n' Jammin'—Bowe & Holyfield Go One On One. Plus: The State Of The Game, Gene Fullmer, Chavez-Camacho, Sullivan & Fitzsimmons, Bigfoot Martin, Carmen Basilio (color).

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, Argentina's All-Time Top 10, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough Now? Plus: *The Ring* poll, Freddie Pendleton, Carbajal-Gonzales preview, Benny Leonard, Charley Burley, Lennox Lewis (color).

JUNE 1993

June 1993: Riddick Bowe, The Man, By LeRoy Neiman. Plus: Ireland's Top 10, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, James Toney-Iran Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Neiman (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 Hardest Punchers in Boxing, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, Closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Sept. 1993: Lennox Lewis' First Title Defense: Beating Tucker Was The Easy Part. Plus: Mexico's Top 10, Sergei Artemiev, Julio Cesar Vasquez, Gerald McClellan-Julian Jackson, Michael Spinks (color).

Nov. 1993: Julio Cesar Chavez: He Crushed Haugen, Annihilated Alli, Is Whitaker Next? Plus: Marvin Hagler, Evander Holyfield, John-John Molina, Boxing's Training Tricks, Final Show at Madison Square Garden.

Dec. 1993: What If Mike Tyson Had Never Gone To Jail? Plus: Freddie Pendleton, Michael Moorer & Tommy Morrison, Willie Pep, Ed Dunkhorst, Cuba's Top 10, Tyson-Spinks (color).

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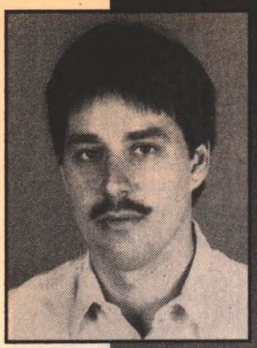


By Jeff Ryan

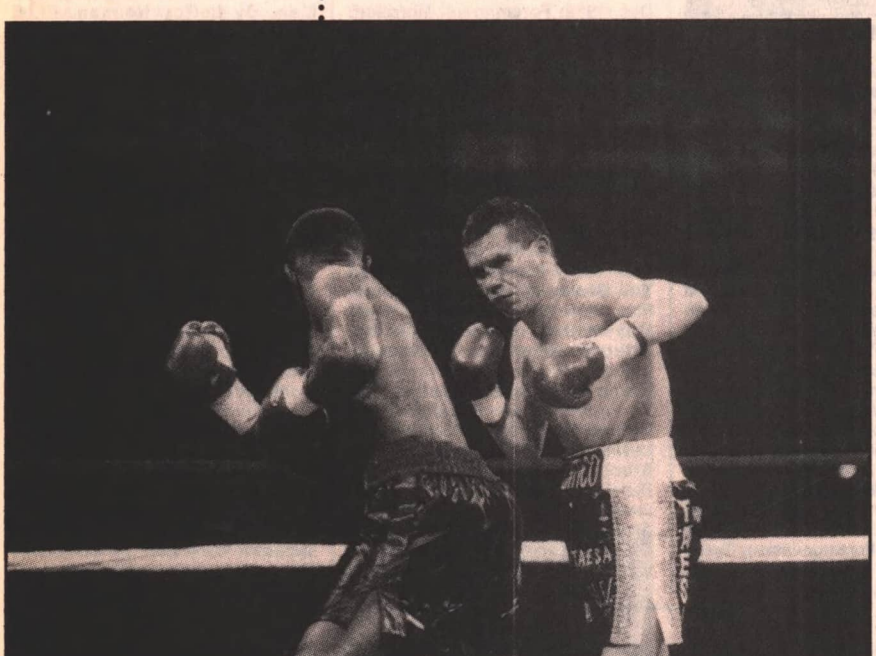
Ryan Out Loud

TO HAIL CESAR OR NAIL HIM?

Along with the rosin and the discarded handwraps, they swept the remnants of a dynasty ou of the Alamodome ring after the crowd went home on September 10. Scattered about the canva were some chips from a once-immovable block of granite, rivets that had come loose from th Man of Steel, and quite a few unraveled threads from that cloak of invincibility.

Reports of Julio Cesar Chavez' death have been greatly exaggerated. There is still a supe lightweight title belt under his serape (following the events in San Antonio, I refuse t acknowledge the organization whose title it belongs to), a chin that could withstand a Molotov cocktail, and a bunch of 140-pound challengers who may need transfusions after a Chavez wit anger to vent and respect to recapture treats them like pinatas.

Chavez lives, all right, but his dynasty, like that of the Aztecs, is buried forever. "J.C Superstar" earned—excuse me, *got*—a draw against Pernell Whitaker, but i might as well have been a loss. A Whitaker outmaneuvered the Mexica legend, he looked like North Carolin State dethroning mighty UCLA in 1974 o the Edmonton Oilers breaking down th New York Islanders machine a decad later. The Clark Kent of Mexico went int the phone booth, and for the first time i 88 trips, he got disconnected.



Forget the scorecards—Chavez was humbled by Pernell Whitaker. But the Mexican legend is only 31, and he remains a world champion with a bright future.

Now come the physical examination of Chavez' performance, though they hav been reading more like autopsy reports i some newspaper columns. The patient' symptoms: fatigue, irritability, an depression. So what is it? Did Chavez ag decades in those 36 minutes of action Did he literally run into the fists of much better fighter for the very first time What was behind the curious lack o stamina and the abandonment of hi usually outstanding defensive skills?

Here's one physician's diagnosis:

Chavez took Whitaker lightly: It ma be difficult to believe, considering th opponent, but signs of this were present. Chavez started uncharacteristically quickly under th assumption that an early kayo was possible, then became winded by the fifth round, a indication he was not in his usual outstanding condition. Throughout the bout, the Mexica walked in with no regard for "Sweet Pea's" power, willingly accepting a combination for th opportunity to land a single hook to the body in return.

Perhaps Chavez saw in front of him little more than a natural lightweight, a fighter who ha registered kayos in less than half of his wins, and a hot dog who had looked pretty ordinar against an injured Buddy McGirt. But Chavez wasn't the only one who was suckered b Whitaker-McGirt. The 2-1 odds favoring Chavez were a direct reflection of that March evenin in Madison Square Garden, when Whitaker nearly had the most unfortunate encounter with

"J.C. Superstar" is the reigning WBC super lightweight champion. Look for him to drop back down to 140 pounds. Jumping to welterweight might have been too optimistic a move.

one-armed man since Mrs. Richard Kimble.

Styles make fights: It's simplistic. It's a cliche. It's also very true. Whitaker has a lot of Pep in him, and that's with a capital P. He is a defensive master, and maybe his head movement, shoulder swivels, and ability to punch in retreat would turn any fight for an aggressor like Chavez into a Maalox moment. If there's a rematch, Chavez certainly won't be any faster, and Whitaker won't be any more willing to play rock 'em-sock 'em robots. The outcome could very well be the same.

Welterweight was one step too many: No less of an authority than ABC analyst Alex Wallau, whose opinion I respect greatly, believes Chavez left the best of himself in the lightweight division. This despite the champion's great success at 140. Chavez weighed only 142 for the Whitaker challenge, so he wasn't bulked up and slow. But he probably suffered from having to land his punches on a heavier man in a fight that, it quickly became apparent, Chavez could only win by knockout.

Chavez' struggle at welterweight gets you wondering what might have happened had he ventured to junior middleweight or middleweight, as was proposed. And it makes Roberto Duran's gradual climb from the lightweight title to the middleweight crown seem even more remarkable.

After the worst performance of his career, Julio Cesar Chavez sounded a lot like Cesar Chavez. He opened his mouth, and all the talk was about grapes. In this case, sour ones. Chavez bitched about low blows (a legitimate gripe), Whitaker's holding (part of the game), and the fact that his opponent was too big (and he said *that* with a straight face).

Finding himself in a situation calling for humility, Chavez rebelled. His machismo was not going to be placed in restraints and tranquilized, not when it was he who was marching forward at the final bell. So he started sounding like Roberto Duran: stubborn, nearsighted, in a state of denial.

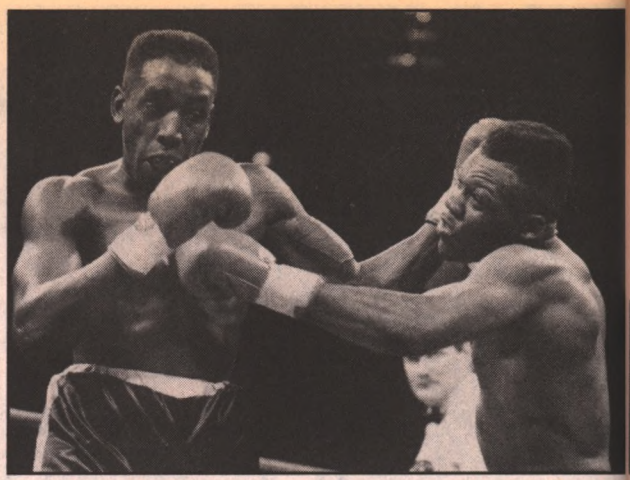
It wasn't easy listening, but it was, in some strange way, understandable. Pete Rose once moaned his 44-game hitting streak had been ended by a string of those sissy curveballs. Knocked sombrero over heels, that Chavez could understand. Being beaten with a textbook he couldn't. The macho code: Real men don't eat quiche, throw junk balls, or fight any way but standing still and trading in the trenches.

Foolish pride is not an endearing quality, but remember it was that same refusal to ever concede defeat that kept Chavez stalking Meldrick Taylor with 20 seconds left on the clock. And it is that same stubbornness that will pull a few more memorable efforts out of him before he rides off into the tequila sunset.

Out of the rubble of a dynasty in ruin will crawl a survivor. Chavez isn't shot or badly faded, not from a fight in which he was never really hurt and not seriously marked. He didn't turn into an old man, it's just that Whitaker has a way of making people look like they did.

Following the disappointment of San Antonio, I certainly won't hail Cesar, but I won't nail him, either. Those first 87 nights of work have earned him at least that much. I'll simply flag him 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct, hand him back the ball, and watch him take his chances running up the middle again. ■

New Faces



Bradley scores his fifth win by outpointing Ken Wallace

Lonnie Bradley

Middleweight

By Mark Jacobs

To know about Lonnie Bradley the fighter, one only has to watch the highlight tape of his brief pro career. The fights take on an almost monotonous quality. Bradley dances a little, peppers his opponent with a stinging left jab, then unleashes a right hand that is as straight and fast as a laser beam. The fight usually ends at this point because boxers like John Taylor, David Woods, and James Mullins, who appear in the loss column of Bradley's record, would be more useful in another profession, like chalk outline modeling. Even against limited opposition, however, the talent of a very good professional fighter can be clearly seen.

But to know Lonnie Bradley the man, you must learn about Roscoe "Chic" Bradley and the battle royales.

Not so long ago, before boxing got, *ahem*, civilized, southern promoters liked to spice their undercards by having several youngsters get in the ring and pound each other free-for-all style until one was left standing.

"They used to get about six or seven of us young kids in South Carolina to fight before the main event," recalled the 67-year-old Chic Bradley, who is Lonnie's grandfather. "You had to devise a way of winning. You usually stayed in the corner, out of the main fight. It wasn't too bad because you lost as soon as you were knocked down. Afterward they'd throw you money to see if you could pick it up with your gloves on. It was fun for us."

He was having this fun when he was 11.

Bradley went from the battle royales to the amateurs, winning Silver and Golden Gloves championships. He later moved to New York City.

"I didn't have pro fights, at least on my record," he said. "In those days you made more money as an amateur because even

(Continued on page 5

PRO RECORD

1992		
Nov. 19	James Mullins, Virginia Beach, VA	KO 1
Dec. 11	John Taylor, New York City	KO 1

1993		
Jan. 27	David Woods, New York City	KO 2
Feb. 18	Dexter Emanuel, New York City	KO 1
March 6	Ken Wallace, New York City	W 4
April 22	Craig Mills, New York City	KO 4
June 24	Tony McCrimmion, New York City	KO 1
July 8	Marcel Huffaker, New York City	KO 1
Aug. 10	Artee Bright, Greenville, SC	KO 2

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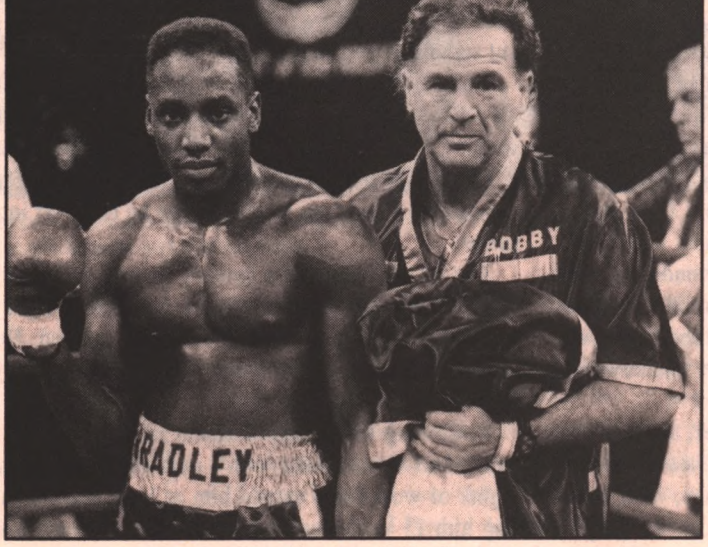

Bradley with trainer Bobby Cassidy

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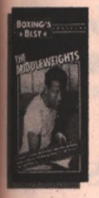

THE MIDDLEWEIGHTS

The most skillful and de vastating middleweights in the history of boxing are profiled in this fast-moving video. Watch stellar performances by Stanley Ketchel, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Marcel Cerdan. Also includes Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Carlos Monzon, and many others. Hosted by Curt Gowdy and Floyd Patterson. **58 minutes.**

BOXING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS

Match wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each division and then debate who deserves the title of the Greatest Fighter of All-Time. Includes explosive fight footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; welterweights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, Carlos Monzon, and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie Moore; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. **60 minutes.**

GRUDGE FIGHTS

The greatest grudge fights in boxing history are presented in this non-stop action video. See Jack Dempsey try to regain the title from Gene Tunney and Joe Louis seek revenge against Max Schmeling. Watch Joe Walcott battle Ezzard Charles and Rocky Marciano in epic wars, the Ali-Frazier trilogy, plus a collection of rare footage that recounts boxing's most memorable bouts. **58 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: "THE BIG PUNCHERS"

The biggest draw in sports today is the heavyweight knockout artist. This hard-hitting video explores boxing's most famous punchers. A sample of the action included in this video are clips of Dempsey's savage victory over Willard, the second Louis-Schmeling fight, Marciano vs. Walcott, and Frazier vs. Ali. **59 minutes.**

GREAT ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS

You've got a ringside seat for a heart-stopping lineup of boxing's most exciting knockouts, including Muhammad Ali-George Foreman, Ezzard Charles-Joe Walcott, Jim Corbett-Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Marciano-Joe Walcott, Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano, and many more. **30 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS

Host Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll see challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. Jack Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene Tunney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that made him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

RINGSIDE WITH MIKE TYSON

Mike Tyson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers the main events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion-dollar gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes Sonny Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and much more. **44 minutes.**

TYSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS

Join Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds his own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown before him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

MORE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS

The exciting followup to **Great One-Punch Knockouts.** *If you like knockout action, this video is a must for your collection. You'll see these fantastic one-punch knockouts and many more: Ali-Liston (2), Louis-Braddock, Robinson-Fullmer, Patterson-Johnson (2), Louis-Paychek.* **33 minutes.**

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PHOTO QUIZ

TEST YOUR BOXING IQ

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

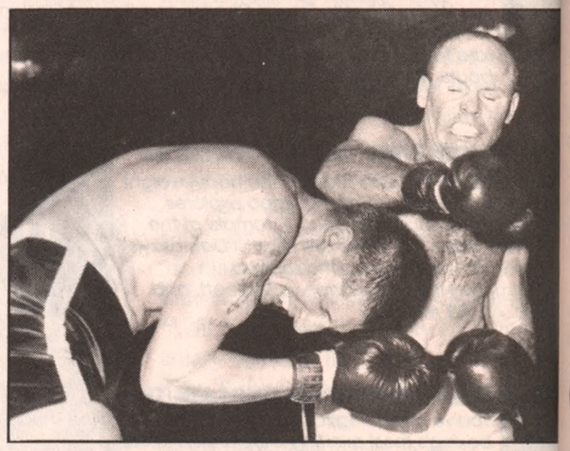
THIS MONTH: OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALISTS

1

A flyweight gold medalist at the 1948 Games, this legendary champion won a professional world title in 1954. He's pictured battling Pone Kingpetch.

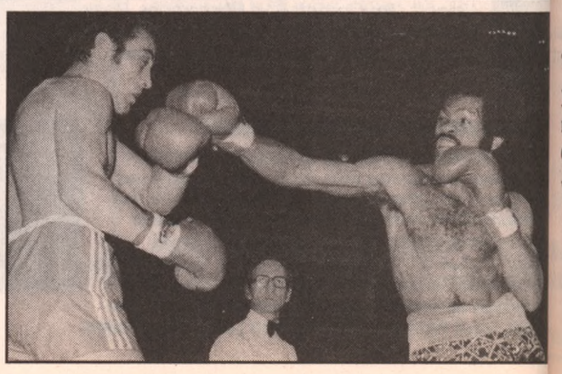
2

In 1956, this heavyweight won the gold medal in Melbourne. He's pictured topping Johnny York in 1959, but is best known for his unique pro debut.



3

This southpaw, a gold medalist in 1968, never won a professional world title. But he was smooth enough to stop future champion Alan Minter in 1977.



4

The Munich Games of 1972 produced triumph and tragedy. This American southpaw won the gold, but was never crowned as a pro.

5

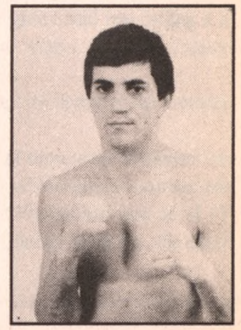
The U.S. boycotted the 1980 Games, which made it easier for fighters like this gold medal winner from Italy to prosper. He went on to win a pro title, too.

6

Two Olympic champions in one photo. On the right is Sugar Ray Leonard, who struck gold in 1976. His buddy was one of three U.S. gold medalists at the 1988 Games in Seoul.

7

This 1980 gold medalist also won a professional title at light heavyweight. But only hard-core fight fans have even heard of him.



8

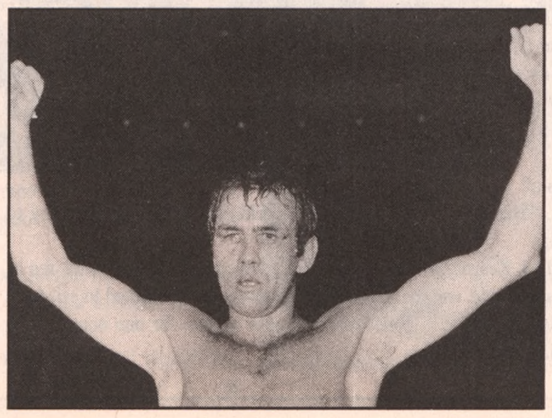
Despite what you may think, the U.S. gold rush didn't start at the 1976 Games in Montreal. This 1924 Olympic champion from New York City won a pro title in 1927.

9

Not all Olympic champions realize their potential as pros. This 1976 gold medalist, shown stopping Greg Coverson in 1983, was 0-for-3 in world title fights.

10

The Lonsdale Belt may help you identify this 1968 gold medalist from across the pond. One hint: His brother was also a world-class fighter.



ANSWERS:

1) Pascual Perez
2) Pete Rademacher
3) Ronnie Harris
4) Sugar Ray Seales
5) Patrizio Oliva
6) Andrew Maynard
7) Slobodan Kacar
8) Fidel LaBarba
9) Howard Davis Jr.
10) Chris Finnegan

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Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

ROLE MODEL FOR ALL

(February 12, 1957)

Youngsters stare as if hypnotized through the storefront window of Ray Robinson Enterprises, at 2078 Seventh Avenue in New York's Harlem. From the spacious, tastefully decorated offices behind this simple exterior, the former champion supervised a vast empire of businesses ranging from ice cream distribution to real estate brokerage and management. Every day the great man would arrive at nine, scan his mail, then settle in for countless phone calls, which were interrupted only by endless meetings.

"That place is a religious shrine to the people of Harlem," noted Congressman Adam Clayton Powell. "It is a place where young and old are inspired, proof that there is no limit what can be attained if one sets his mind to doing it."

For as long as it stood, the storefront became a must-see for tourists. And in the minds of the thousands who saw it, it is still there and will always remain a sacred shrine and driving inspiration.

JACK DEMPSEY VS. *JOHN C. HEENAN?*

(May 4, 1925)

No, your eyes are not playing tricks on you. If you think the magnificently proportioned man on the left, wearing the togs of an early-19th century bare-knuckle prize fighter, looks a lot like the heavyweight champion of the world, Williams Harrison "Jack" Dempsey, you'd be right on the money. This rare gem of a photograph, published only once before (in a 1925 issue of an elite fine arts magazine), was the idea of a distinguished American sportsman, owner of a prestigious New York art gallery, who wanted to portray boxing's evolution from its bare-knuckle days to the present. He envisioned a meticulously composed and lighted studio photograph recreating the first great international prize fight, between England's remarkable 5'8", 152-pound champion Tom Sayers and America's 6'2", 197-pound bruiser John C. Heenan. That historic match had taken place on the rock-hard turf at Farnborough, England, on the morning of April 17, 1860, and ended in a draw after 42 brutal rounds.

Several professional models auditioned for the roles of Sayers and Heenan, but none suited the gallery owner. "There's only one man in the world who can bring this thing to life," he told his director. "Jack Dempsey."

Negotiations were held with Dempsey's manager, Jack Kearns, who said, "Dempsey will do it for an advance fee of $1,000 per hour, with a two-hour minimum." The deal was made, and the day before Dempsey was scheduled to sail for a European tour, he found himself in a well-manicured studio on New York's Fifth Avenue where, for one hour and 25 minutes, he became Tom Sayers, Champion of England.

MISMATCH WEIGH-IN

(July 22, 1931)

Mickey Walker (left) and Jack Sharkey weigh in for what was branded The Mismatch of the Century. "Not so," screamed the promoters. "The winner will get champion [Max] Schmeling in a [heavyweight] title match."

The stats overwhelmingly favored Sharkey. At 198½, he had a whopping 29-pound advantage. He outreached Walker by four inches and towered over him by six. If all that weren't enough, little Mickey, at the ripe old age of 30, spotted Jack two years. "Even with the odds ballooning to 4-1, 5-1, 7-1 and climbing," snickered an Associated Press fight preview, "one would have to be out of his mind to take the longshot."

Walker had been one of the best welterweight champions of all-time. When trying to make 147 pounds became a life-and-death struggle, he moved up to middleweight and won his second world crown. For reasons understood only by the three members of New York State's boxing commission, Mickey was forced to relinquish the 160-pound title before being allowed to fight Sharkey.

Brooklyn's ancient Ebbets Field was filled to its 40,000 capacity on that sweltering summer night in 1931. Even the promoters were astonished that so huge a mob shelled out more than $200,000 to view what had been branded a ridiculous mismatch. The magnet was Mickey Walker. Was there even a remote chance their beloved hero could beat those overwhelming odds? They had to be there to cheer him on and to see the miracle with their own eyes, should it happen.

Happen it did. In one of boxing's great stories, the little Mick, actually a blown-up middleweight, outclassed the man known as "The Uncrowned Heavyweight Champion" throughout 15 rounds. So inspiring was Walker's skill and courage that even the most avid Sharkey supporters joined the opposition in cheering for Mickey.

At the end, a quick poll of 20 ringside reporters yielded 16 Walker votes, two for Sharkey, and two calling it a draw. From the deafening crowd roar, it appeared all of the crowd saw Mickey the clear winner. Even the usually dour, emotionless Gene Tunney rose from his seat, smiled, and tipped his hat at Walker.

But the only thing that really counts is the official verdict. The dean of American sports journalism, Damon Runyon, reported the drama of the moment this way:

"A crowd estimated at 40,000 was stupified as Peter Pruntey, the announcer, intoned the decision. Probably the majority of those who witnessed the astounding stand of the marvelous little fighting man from New Jersey thought Walker won. Arthur Donovan, the referee, stood leaning in a corner, his face as white as chalk and his eyes staring at the newspapermen below him with a bewildered expression. He said he thought Walker had won 11 of 15 rounds, which was the way most of the scribes scored the battle. George Kelly, one of the judges, gave the fight to Sharkey. Charles Mathison, the other judge, called it a draw. Donovan's decision was for Walker, and under the New York system that figures out to a draw."

NO MORE BULL FOR JAKE

(June 3, 1954)

When Jake LaMotta finally decided to *really* retire, he invited the press to his Miami home to see for themselves the four beautiful reasons why. Surrounded by (from left) son Jack, 7, daughter Christie, 2, wife Vicki, and son Joe, 5½, the 32-year-old ex-world middleweight champion, looking more like a pussycat than the ferocious "Bronx Bull" of days gone by, appeared more content than at any time in his tumultuous life.

"I came, I saw, I conquered," Jake said with a grin. "I don't know the name of the guy who said that first. But that's the way I feel right now."

In a monumental career that spanned 13 years, the man whose chin was considered punch-proof and whose courage equaled that of the bravest of four-footed bulls took pride in boasting, "I never took a backward step. Not even against Robinson in Chicago."

It is a rarity, even among boxing's elite, to have more than one truly historic fight over the course of a career. LaMotta had two—his title fight with Laurent Dauthuille in 1950, and that masterpiece of pride and guts against Sugar Ray Robinson in 1951.

"Them days is gone," Jake told reporters in his living room as they continued to bring up the subject. "You're only as good as your last fight."

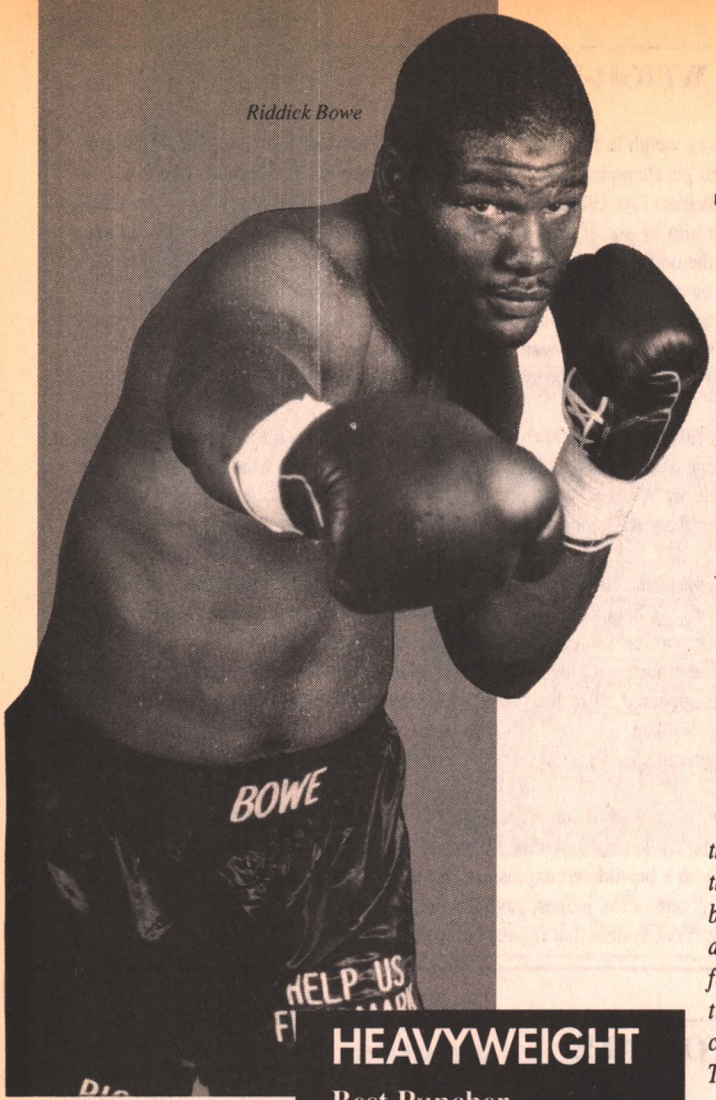
Jake's last fight hadn't been good enough; two months before his announcement, he had lost a 10-round decision to Billy Kilgore in Miami.

"That's when I knew my time had come," sighed the old Bull. ■

OUR EXCLUSIVE ANNUAL REPORT

THE STATE OF THE GAME

By Steve Farhood



Riddick Bowe

If you believe the condition of the heavyweight division determines the condition of boxing, 1993 hasn't been the best of years. Riddick Bowe and Lennox Lewis still haven't fought each other. Fortunately, there are other champions who continue to entertain us. James Toney, Roy Jones, and Terry Norris are all streaking, and at some point, and at some weight, they figure to collide. Julio Cesar Chavez and Pernell Whitaker engaged in the most anticipated fight of the year. At the lower weights, Kostya Tszyu, Oscar De La Hoya, and Junior Jones are waiting to be crowned. And junior flyweight champion Michael Carbajal has become a one-man franchise. The thought of a million-dollar flyweight doesn't seem so farfetched anymore.

Today's stars don't get the exposure they deserve, but for hard-core boxing fans, that fact doesn't make them any less appealing. On that optimistic note, we present THE RING's annual State of the Game.

HEAVYWEIGHTS

A year ago we were talking about how one dominant heavyweight was likely to emerge from the Final Four. Yeah, right. The Final Four produced the Final Two, but it's going to be a few more

Lennox Lewis

Tommy Morrison

Ray Mercer

HEAVYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Riddick Bowe

Best Boxer
Lennox Lewis

Most Protected
Lou Savarese

Is He *Still* Around?
Mike Weaver

Matchmaker's Dream
Tommy Morrison-Michael Moorer

Best-Kept Secret
Michael Bent

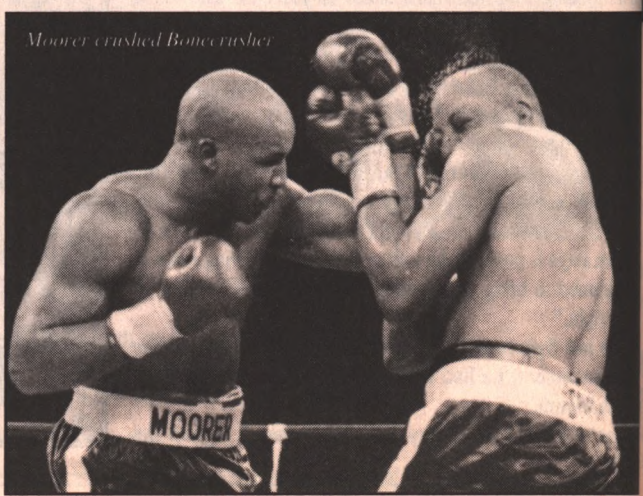
Deserves A Title Shot
Michael Moorer

Most Fun To Watch
Jeremy Williams

On The Way Down
Alex Stewart

Underrated
Mike Hunter

Best Fight This Year
Tommy Morrison KO 8 Carl Williams

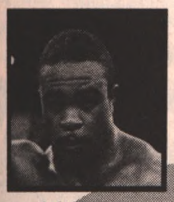


Moorer crushed Bonecrusher

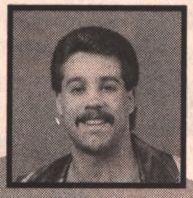
months before the Final Two produces the Final One. Actually, the only major player who was eliminated last fall was Razor Ruddock. Co-champions Riddick Bowe (WBA & IBF) and Lennox Lewis (WBC) remain unbeaten, and on November 6, the retired, unretired Evander Holyfield has been rematched with Bowe. At least Hammer's excited.

Michael Moorer hasn't recently been particularly productive in the ring, but he improved his standing by dropping the WBO title and qualifying for the major alphabet ratings. (He's ranked first by the WBA and IBF.) Tommy Morrison joined the upper echelon by topping George Foreman, and he'll face Lewis early next year. There aren't any other legitimate contenders, unless Ray Mercer proves the Jesse Ferguson fight was an aberration. He also faces criminal charges that he bribed Fergsuon during their bout. The division's prospects are uninspiring. Keep an eye on Jeremy Williams, who's at least fun to watch.

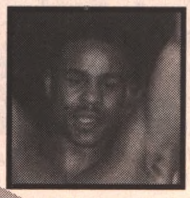
Think About It: It's interesting how the alphabet ratings committees have handled the case of Ruddock, the one-time top-rated contender who hasn't fought since suffering a second-round kayo to Lewis in October 1992. The WBC ranks Ruddock sixth, the WBA 10th, and the IBF not at all. THE RING doesn't rate the Razor, either. But you can bet he'll be back. As one insider says, "There's still lots of money he can make."



Orlin Norris

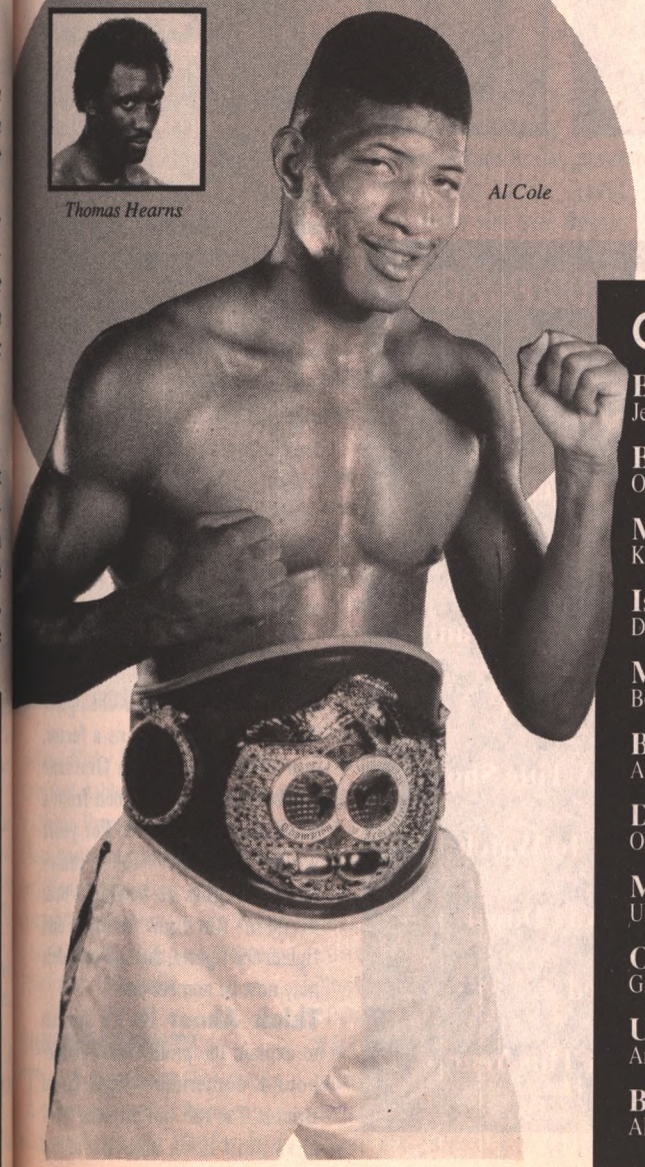


Bobby Czyz



Jeff Lampkin

Thomas Hearns



Al Cole

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Waiting for the cruisers to provide drama and excitement is like waiting for the Boston Red Sox to win the World Series. One year ago we were hoping for a matchup between WBA champion Bobby Czyz and Thomas Hearns. If you have $5-million you'd like to contribute, we think we can help make the match. The problem is that Czyz and Hearns, both slowed by injuries, haven't fought each other, or anyone else for that matter. IBF champion Al Cole fights often, but defenses against the likes of Glenn McCrory are never going to command headlines. WBC king Anaclet Wamba is near-invisible, and the division's best fighter, the top-rated Orlin Norris, has been avoided as if he carries a host of communicable diseases. As we went to press, Czyz had vacated, and Norris was scheduled to face Arthur Williams for the vacant WBA title.

Iran Barkley could generate some interest, but can he carry 195 pounds without losing his spark? Williams and Argentina's Marcelo Figueroa are streaking, while former champions Robert Daniels and Jeff Lampkin are sulking. Let's match Norris against Cole and Wamba, and after he's victorious, declare the division dead and allow it to rest in pieces.

Think About It: Since winning the WBA crown in March 1991, Czyz all but froze the title. He defended just twice, defeating Bash Ali and Don Lalonde. Over the same period, there were five WBC title fights and six IBF title fights. Incredibly, Czyz never made a mandatory defense, further proof that, in boxing, rules are made to be ignored.

CRUISERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Jeff Lampkin

Best Boxer
Orlin Norris

Most Protected
Kenny Keene

Is He *Still* Around?
Dennis Andries

Matchmaker's Dream
Bobby Czyz-Orlin Norris

Best-Kept Secret
Anaclet Wamba

Deserves A Title Shot
Orlin Norris

Most Fun To Watch
Uriah Grant

On The Way Down
Glenn McCrory

Underrated
Arthur Williams

Best Fight This Year
Al Cole W T2 Uriah Grant

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Last year we began our report by stating "the division has never been worse." Twelve months later it's not much better. The bland Henry Maske has replaced Prince Charles Williams as IBF champion, and Virgil Hill has regained the WBA crown. If Mike McCallum dethrones WBC titlist Jeff Harding, the touch of class will be welcomed. Nonetheless, for a division that recently boasted of world champ-

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Egerton Marcus

Best Boxer
Mike McCallum

Most Protected
Wang Sup Lee

Is He *Still* Around?
Willie Edwards

Matchmaker's Dream
Mike McCallum-Thomas Hearns

Best-Kept Secret
Dariusz Michalczewski

Deserves A Title Shot
Prince Charles Williams

Most Fun To Watch
Ernesto Magdaleno

On The Way Down
Art Bayliss

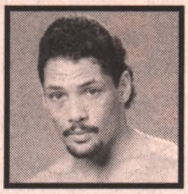
Underrated
Leeonzer Barber

Best Fight This Year
Ernesto Magdaleno D 10 Lupe Aquino

ions like Matthew Saad Muhammad, Michael Spinks, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Sugar Ray Leonard, and Thomas Hearns, today's standing is humbling.

Perhaps the 175-pounders have flattened out because of the failure of high-profile 1988 Olympians Anthony Hembrick and Andrew Maynard to assume command. The current list of contenders includes action fighters Ernesto Magdaleno, Egerton Marcus, and Randall Yonker. All three, however, lack class and big-fight experience. There could be help in the divisions below, but it will be at least a year or two before stars like Michael Nunn, James Toney, and Roy Jones move up.

Think About It: McCallum was one of the best fighters of the '80s, but from welterweight to light heavyweight, Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns made most of the headlines. If McCallum dethrones Harding, he'll become a triple-crown champion and only the third junior middleweight titlist to win the 175-pound crown. The other two? Leonard and Hearns.

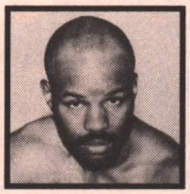

Virgil Hill

Mike McCallum

Ernesto Magdaleno

James Toney

Tim Littles

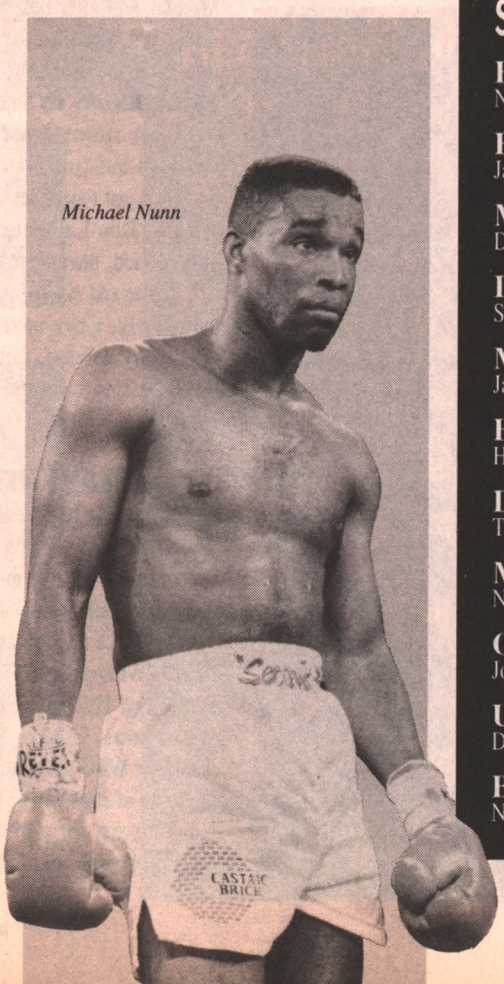

Tony Thornton

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Fun and games aplenty. As we went to press, WBC champion Nigel Benn was scheduled to defend against countryman Chris Eubank. Their first battle, won by Eubank in 1990, was such a corker that Eubank swore he'd never face Benn again. So he lied. WBA champion Michael Nunn will next defend against the always entertaining Merqui Sosa, and IBF king James Toney figures to survive vs. mandatory challenger Darrin Van Horn. A unification is a outside possibility; if Don King has his way, Nunn will meet the winner of Benn-Eubank, and Toney will face the winner of that bout. The wild factor is IBF middleweight champion Roy Jones. If he chooses to move up, a showdown with Toney would be among the most attractive matches of the '90s.

This division is both strong at the top and deep. Unbeaten Tim Littles seems a future champion. Tony Thornton remains a factor and former champion Graciano Rocchigiani has returned from premature retirement. For years we've touted the junior welterweights as boxing's best division. But fight for fight and fighter for fighter, the 168-pounders may now be number one.

Think About It: It's difficult to explain the proliferation of 160-pound contenders from Great Britain. The roll call includes WBC champion Benn and two of his


Michael Nunn

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Nigel Benn

Best Boxer
James Toney

Most Protected
Dan Schommer

Is He *Still* Around?
Steve Little

Matchmaker's Dream
James Toney-Roy Jones

Best-Kept Secret
Henry Wharton

Deserves A Title Shot
Tim Littles

Most Fun To Watch
Nigel Benn

On The Way Down
John Scully

Underrated
Darrin Allen

Best Fight This Year
Nigel Benn KO 4 Lou Gent

McClellan survived the bombs of Julian Jackson

MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Gerald McClellan

Best Boxer
Roy Jones

Most Protected
Frederic Seillier

Is He *Still* Around?
Segundo Mercado

Matchmaker's Dream
Roy Jones-Gerald McClellan

Best-Kept Secret
Otis Grant

Deserves A Title Shot
Thomas Tate

Most Fun To Watch
Vinny Pazienza

On The Way Down
Robbie Sims

Underrated
Charles Brewer

Best Fight This Year
Gerald McClellan KO 5 Julian Jackson

victims, Nicky Piper and Lou Gent, Crawford Ashley, who was kayoed by Nunn, European champion Ray Close, top-rated contenders Eubank and Henry Wharton, and fringe contenders James Cook, Fidel Castro Smith, and Sam Storey. That's a top 10 in itself.

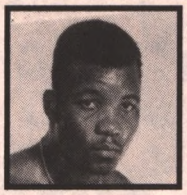
MIDDLEWEIGHTS

The 160-pounders are hot, maybe as hot as they've been since Marvelous Marvin Hagler was defending against Thomas Hearns, Roberto Duran, and Sugar Ray Leonard. No one's quite sure just how good WBC champion Gerald McClellan is, but he seems at least as exciting as the fighter he dethroned, Julian Jackson. McClellan gets our vote as the hardest hitter in the game. IBF champion Roy Jones may be the best boxer-puncher in the game, and WBA king John David Jackson's recent win over Reggie Johnson suggests he could be among boxing's most underrated champions. Who wants to fight a quick southpaw with sharp boxing skills? Don't forget about Johnson, though, he'll be back.

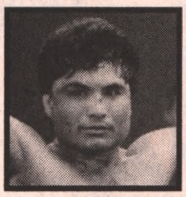
A unification would be dandy, but there are enough quality contenders to go around. Lamar Parks lacks only experience; Bernard Hopkins will surely be a champion, whether at 160 or 168; Thomas Tate has proven his mettle; and Jackson (John David, that is) is dull but dangerous. Also, watch for Canada's Otis Grant. Then there are Vinny Pazienza and Roberto Duran, who, we suppose, deserve each other. What the division deserves is Terry Norris. The WBC 154-pound champion has promised to move up, and in a few months, Norris-Jones could be the matchup of choice.

Think About It: If it's unified champions you want, this division has been better than most. There are currently three 160-pound kings, but over the last 15 years, the title has been unified 60 percent of the time. Over the same stretch, there's been a single heavyweight champion 33 percent of the time, light heavyweight 16 percent, welterweight 10 percent, lightweight 16 percent, and featherweight, bantamweight, and flyweight 0 percent.

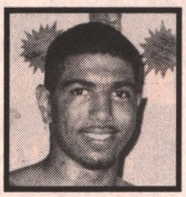
Roy Jones



Reggie Johnson



Julio Cesar Vasquez



Winky Wright

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Terry Norris

Best Boxer
Terry Norris

Most Protected
Steve Martinez

Is He *Still* Around?
Kirkland Laing

Matchmaker's Dream
Terry Norris-Julio Cesar Vasquez

Best-Kept Secret
Winky Wright

Deserves A Title Shot
Simon Brown

Most Fun To Watch
Julian Jackson

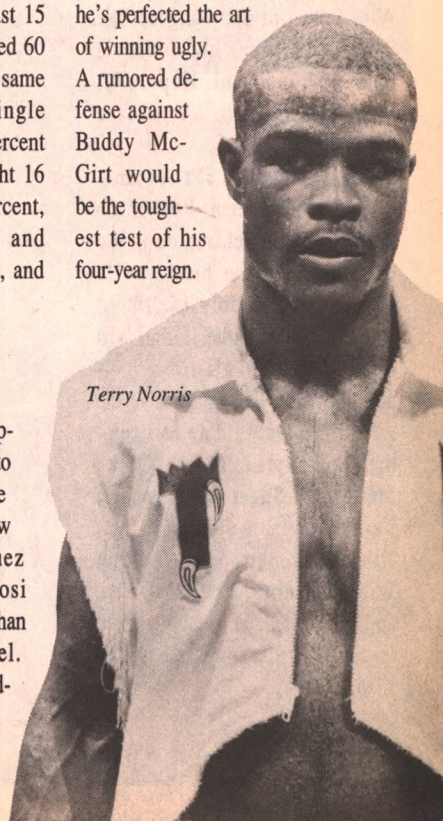
On The Way Down
Louis Howard

Underrated
Laurent Boudouani

Best Fight This Year
Terry Norris KO 3 Troy Waters

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

When and if WBC champion Terry Norris jumps to middleweight, he'll leave the division in the hands of fellow titlists Julio Cesar Vasquez (WBA) and Gianfranco Rosi (IBF). That thought is scarier than a Stephen King novel. Argentina's Vasquez is a hard-hitting southpaw and, by today's standards, a credible champion. But he's technically limited and, at times, crude. The nicest thing we can say about Rosi is that during his championship run, he's perfected the art of winning ugly. A rumored defense against Buddy McGirt would be the toughest test of his four-year reign.



Terry Norris

Former welterweight champion Simon Brown, who is rated first by the WBC, is still waiting for his oft-postponed title shot. At this point in his career, he shouldn't deliver much. Another former welter champ, Aaron Davis, just missed against Vasquez. If he remains active, he's talented enough to score in his second try. The future belongs to slick boxers like southpaw Carl Daniels and Winky Wright and bangers like Stephen Martinez and France's Laurent Boudouani. Hopefully, after Norris departs, a fresh face will emerge.

Think About It: As amazing as it may seem, Rosi is the longest-reigning champion in the division's 31-year history. (He won the title on July 15, 1989.) But it's doubtful the Italian will ever crack the all-time 154-pound top 10. That's because the roll call includes (in no particular order) Thomas Hearns, Mike McCallum, Sugar Ray Leonard, Terry Norris, Koichi Wajima, Nino Benvenuti, Ayub Kalule, Wilfred Benitez, Roberto Duran, and Julian Jackson. The question: Is there room for Rosi in the *second* 10?

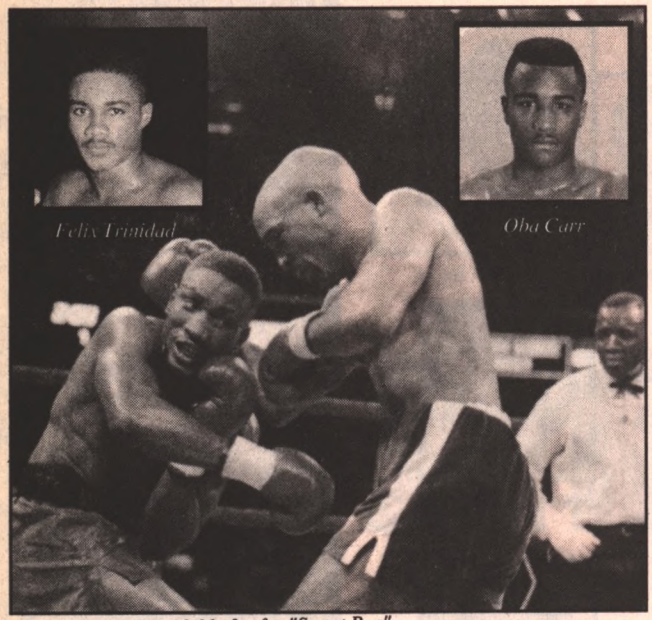
WELTERWEIGHTS

On September 10, WBC champion Pernell Whitaker defended against Julio Cesar Chavez. The bout ended in a controversial draw *(see page 38)*. Whitaker, who was dominant, now reigns as the best fighter, pound-for-pound, in the game.

This division would be exciting even without Whitaker, who will stay, and Chavez, who will likely drop back down to 140 pounds. That's because IBF champion Felix Trinidad has exploded onto the scene, and even those who are difficult to impress have acknowledged his superstar potential. In victories against Maurice Blocker and Luis Garcia, the Puerto Rican has demonstrated his awesome power. A question, however, remains concerning his chin. Like Trinidad, WBA champion Crisanto Espana won the title in smashing fashion, crushing Meldrick Taylor. But he was ordinary in defending against Rodolfo Aguilar. It's too early to determine whether he's special.

The division contains four exceptional contenders, former champion Buddy McGirt, California-based Ghanian Ike Quartey, Detroit's Oba Carr, and Mexico's colorful Yori Boy Campas (52-0). McGirt may move up, and Quartey and Campas, both powerpunchers, figure to secure title tries in 1994.

Think About It: Trinidad won the IBF title in his 20th pro bout at age 20, but in recent years, two 147-pound kings were crowned at an even younger age. In 1976, Pipino Cuevas captured the WBA title in his 21st bout at age 18, and three years later Wilfred Benitez took the WBC title in his 38th bout at age 20. (He was one month younger than Trinidad.) Benitez was particularly precocious; the welterweight title was his second



McGirt was a formidable foe for "Sweet Pea"

WELTERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Felix Trinidad

Best Boxer
Pernell Whitaker

Most Protected
Freddie Ladd

Is He *Still* Around?
Lester Ellis

Matchmaker's Dream
Terry Norris-Julio Cesar Chavez

Best-Kept Secret
Ike Quartey

Deserves A Title Shot
Wilfredo Rivera

Most Fun To Watch
Kevin Pompey

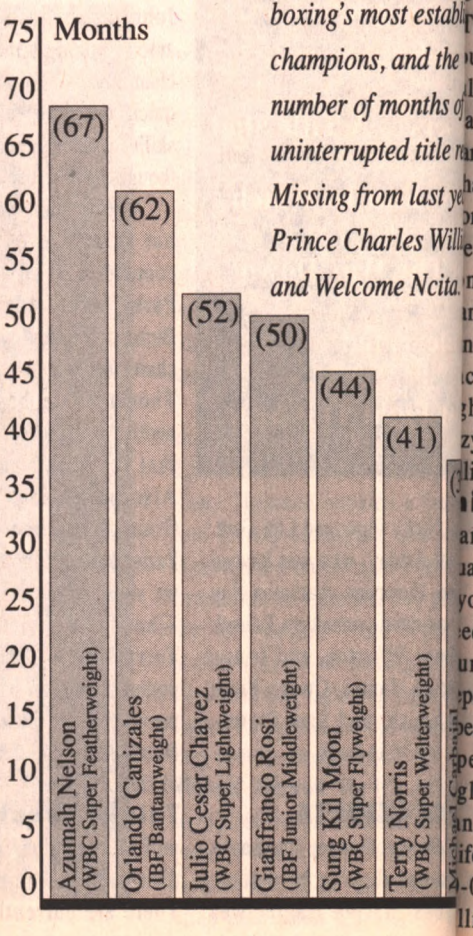
On The Way Down
Meldrick Taylor

Underrated
David Gonzalez

Best Fight This Year
Kevin Pompey D 12 Nick Rupa

LONGEST-REIGNING CHAMPION

The following show boxing's most establ champions, and the number of months o uninterrupted title r Missing from last ye Prince Charles Will and Welcome Ncita.



world championship. In 1976, he became the youngest champion in history, winning the junior welter title at age 17.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

A message to those who call for a return to the eight original weight classes: The 140-pound division has been boxing's best for several years, and it shows no signs of deterioration. An optimist's scenario has sensational Australia-based Russian Kostya Tszyu replacing Julio Cesar Chavez as the best fighter in the game, and as soon as Tszyu establishes himself, Oscar De La Hoya rising from lightweight to challenge him.

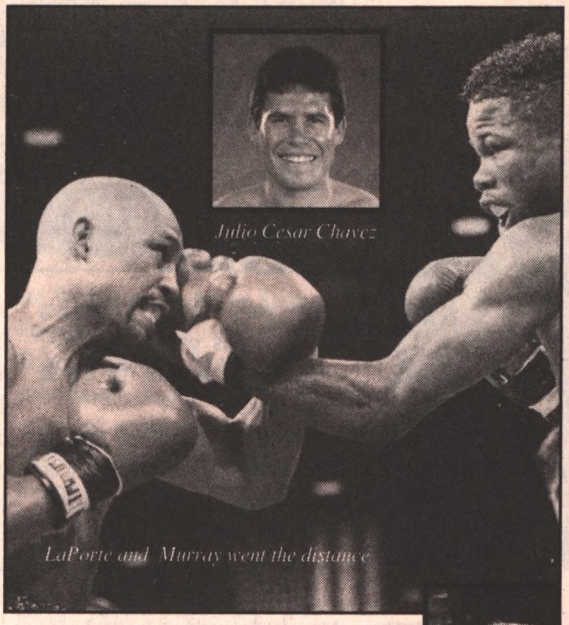
With or without Chavez, the junior welters remain talent-rich. Classy IBF champion Charles Murray will never be a banger, but he's improving, and look for him to soon crack the pound-for-pound top 10. WBA king Juan "The Whip" Coggi is a strong southpaw who, like countryman Julio Cesar Vasquez, will never make Argentine fans forget Carlos Monzon. Still, we rate him a half-level above most of today's world champions. As usual, there are a handful of unbeaten contenders, including David Kamau, Valery Kayumba, Pedro Sanchez, and Andy Holligan, and Zack Padilla is streaking. The fighter to watch, however, is Tszyu. After only 10 fights, he's calling for Coggi.

Think About It: WBC champion Chavez has been an equal opportunity titleholder; he's kayoed challengers of all races, creeds, and colors. But the 140-pound class remains boxing's deepest, and these are some of the unbeaten top-10 contenders "J.C. Superstar" hasn't faced: England's Holligan (21-0), France's Kayumba (33-0-1), California's Kamau (20-0), Tszyu (10-0), Las Vegan Vincent Phillips (27-0), and Dominican Sanchez (23-0-2). And Chavez has made *11* defenses.

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Roberto Duran dominated the division in the '70s. Pernell Whitaker unified the title in the early-'90s. The next great lightweight is supposed to be Oscar De La Hoya, but there are three world champions, and he's not one of them. In fact, he doesn't even fight here yet.

It's difficult to pick the number-one titlist. Veteran Fred Pendleton (IBF) has faced the toughest opposition. Mexico's 22-year-old Miguel Angel Gonzalez (WBC) has the most potential. South Africa's Dingaan Thobela (WBA) is the smoothest boxer. If trash talk counts for anything, De La Hoya will move



Julio Cesar Chavez

LaPorte and Murray went the distance

Juan Coggi

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Kostya Tszyu

Best Boxer
Charles Murray

Most Protected
Frankie Randall

Is He *Still* Around?
Bazooka Limon

Matchmaker's Dream
Charles Murray-Juan Coggi

Best-Kept Secret
Andy Holligan

Deserves A Title Shot
Zack Padilla

Most Fun To Watch
Zack Padilla

On The Way Down
Greg Haugen

Underrated
David Kamau

Best Fight This Year
Zack Padilla W 12 Carlos Gonzalez

LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Rafael Ruelas

Best Boxer
Freddie Pendleton

Most Protected
Joey Gamache

Is He *Still* Around?
Kamel Bou-Ali

Matchmaker's Dream
Oscar De La Hoya-Rafael Ruelas

Best-Kept Secret
Nazarov Olzubek

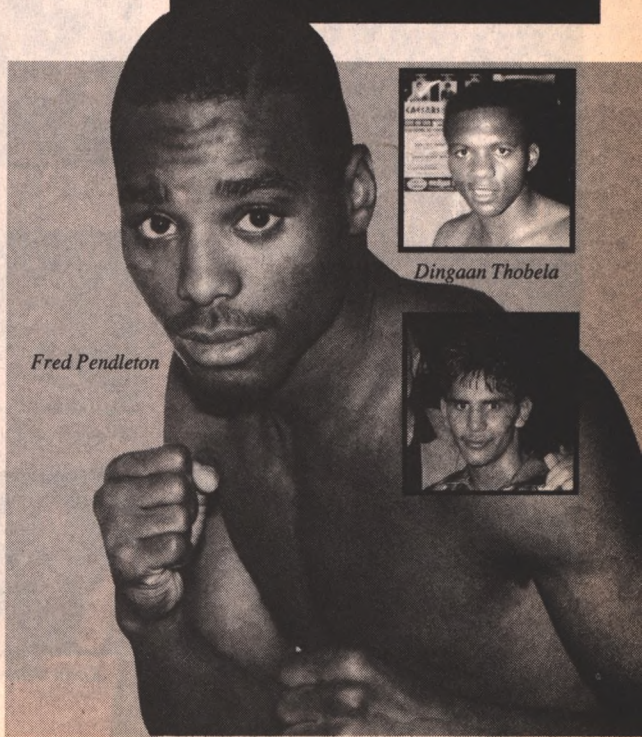
Deserves A Title Shot
Sharmba Mitchell

Most Fun To Watch
Jorge Paez

On The Way Down
Tracy Spann

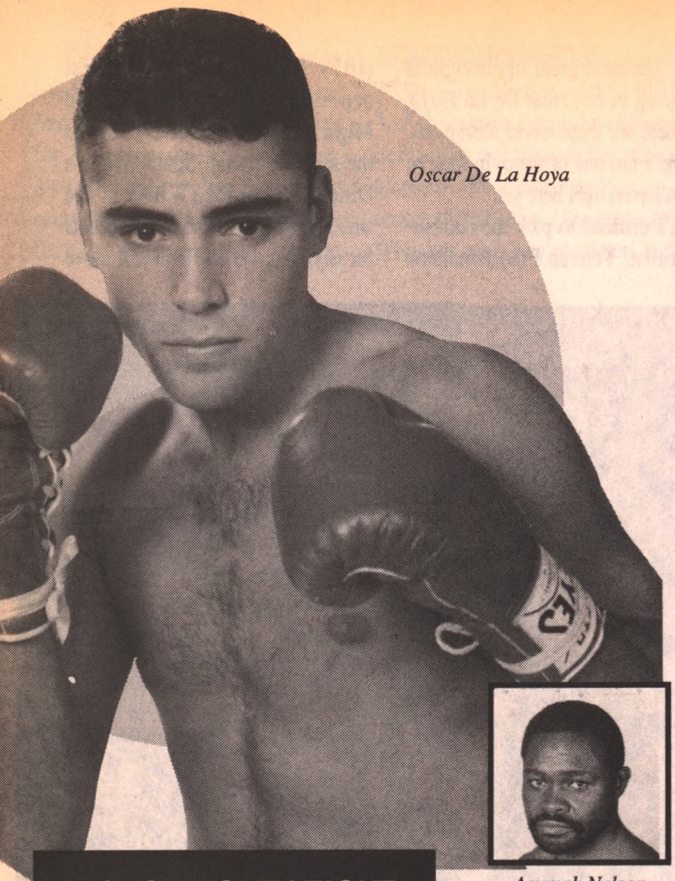
Underrated
Wilfrido Rocha

Best Fight This Year
Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 David Sample

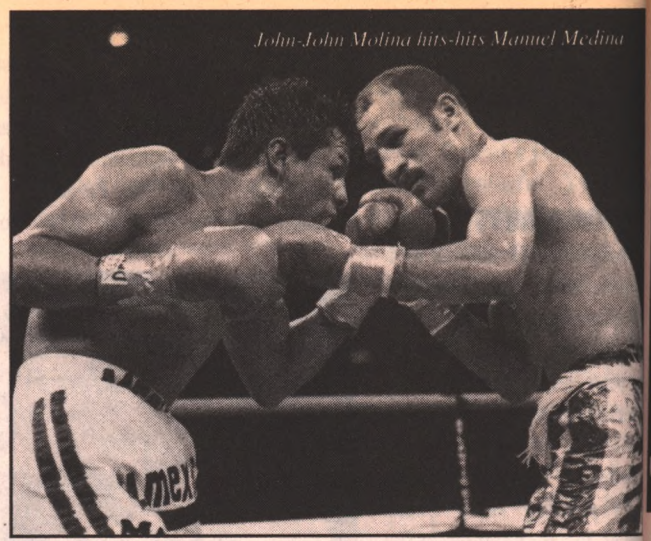


Dingaan Thobela

Fred Pendleton



Oscar De La Hoya



John-John Molina hits-hits Manuel Medina

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Oscar De La Hoya

Best Boxer
Calvin Grove

Most Protected
Ed Hopson

Is He *Still* Around?
Bernard Taylor

Matchmaker's Dream
Azumah Nelson-Oscar De La Hoya

Best-Kept Secret
Tiger Ari

Deserves A Title Shot
Calvin Grove

Most Fun To Watch
Oscar De La Hoya

On The Way Down
Darryll Tyson

Underrated
Genaro Hernandez

Best Fight This Year
Calvin Grove KO 7 Jeff Fenech

Azumah Nelson

Calvin Grove

James Leija

Yung Kyun Park

Kevin Kelley

up and aim for Pendleton. "Fearless Freddie" has called the 1992 Olympic gold medalist "the tamale of the century."

Rafael Ruelas, who is next up for Pendleton, seems the best of an above-average group of contenders. Cutey Sharmba Mitchell and puncher Leavander Johnson lack only momentum. Colombia's Miguel Julio and Japan-based Russian Nazarov Olzubek are the sleepers. Look for De La Hoya to invade some time late next year.

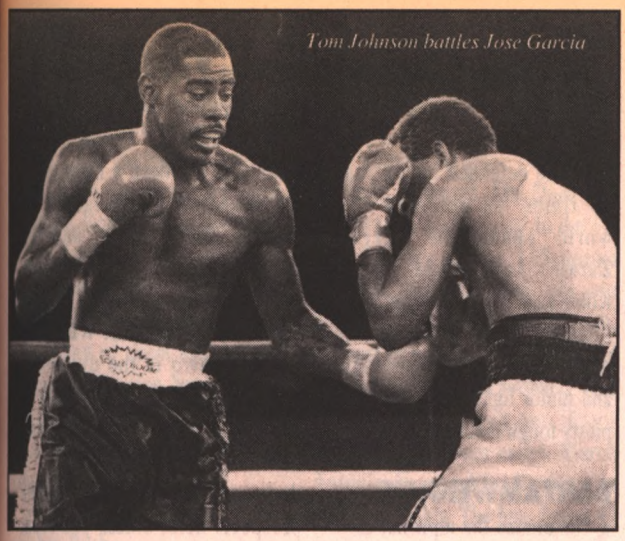
Think About It: In July, the British weekly *Boxing News* asked its readers to choose the *real* champion in each division. The closest vote came at lightweight, with champions Gonzalez, Thobela, and Pendleton receiving almost equal support. As Pendleton's 14 losses would suggest, he has faced the highest quality of opposition. At age 22, the unbeaten Gonzalez has the most potential. And Thobela's only loss was a disputed decision to Tony Lopez, which has been avenged. Unfortunately, a unification is highly unlikely.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

The handlers of Oscar De La Hoya have been guarded with their intentions; they've pointed the "Golden Boy" toward the 130-pound crown, but haven't revealed which champion they intend to dethrone. A challenge of long-reigning WBC king Azumah Nelson would bring the most money, b Bob Arum promotes De La Ho and Don King promotes Nelso That should be enough of a obstacle to send De La Hoya again unbeaten WBA champion Gena Hernandez. The fight, which shou finally provide De La Hoya wi serious competition, is a natural f the Great Western Forum. Team L La Hoya, however, says it cou land elsewhere. (Perhaps the ne MGM Grand in Las Vegas.) Lik Nelson and Hernandez, IB champion John-John Molina crav a date with De La Hoya. If he's n the chosen one, he'll jump lightweight.

Oscar aside, there's not mu working here. Gabe Ruelas an Calvin Grove will get secon chances. Forget the rest, unless y can't get enough of Bernard Tayl Consider that Taylor, the IBF number-one contender, isn't rat by the WBC or WBA, and Harol Warren, the WBA's number on isn't rated by the WBC or IBF. F the record, THE RING doesn't ra either of them.

Think About It: The 13 pound class is boxing's melting p In the WBC's top 30, an incredib 19 countries and six continents a represented. In comparison, t heavyweights, dominated Americans, are represented by on nine countries. At the other end the ratings, the strawweight dominated by Far Eastern fighte



Tom Johnson battles Jose Garcia

FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Eloy Rojas

Best Boxer
Goyo Vargas

Most Protected
Yung Kyun Park

Is He *Still* Around?
Julian Solis

Matchmaker's Dream
Kevin Kelley-Jesse James Leija

Best-Kept Secret
Alejandro Gonzalez

Deserves A Title Shot
Kevin Kelley

Most Fun To Watch
Paul Hodkinson

On The Way Down
Louie Espinoza

Underrated
Hector Lizarraga

Best Fight This Year
Goyo Vargas KO 7 Paul Hodkinson

are also represented by nine countries.

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Perhaps more than any other weight class, the 126-pounders exists as three separate entities. There's the WBC division, which is headed by slick Mexican Goyo Vargas and top contenders Kevin Kelley and Paul Hodkinson. There's the WBA division, led by Korean homebody Yung Kyun Park and familiar challengers Eloy Rojas and Ever Beleno. And there's the IBF division, spearheaded by low-profile champion Tom Johnson and his personal list of opponents, including Baby Sugar Rojas, Francisco Segura, and Orlando Soto. A unification? A mix & match? There's a better chance of Madonna joining a convent.

There are no Salvador Sanchezes or Eusebio Pedrozas here, not even a Barry McGuigan or an Antonio Esparragoza. Demanding defenses vs. unbeaten southpaw Kelley and former champion Hodkinson will tell us whether Vargas is a keeper. Park has an impressive title fight record, but has never left his homeland. The versatile Johnson is good, but not good enough to rise above the competition. Based on his effort against Azumah Nelson, maybe Jesse James Leija will emerge. Or Mexico's Alejandro Gonzalez. The prospect to watch: Ireland's exciting Wayne McCullough.

Think About It: Does Park own a passport? In 28 pro bouts, the Korean has never fought outside his homeland. This is unusual, even for a Korean titlist. All 10 of the Korean fighters rated highest (all-time) by THE RING correspondent Joe Koizumi fought at least one title fight abroad.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

A unification between WBC champion Tracy Patterson and IBF king Kennedy McKinney is the type of attractive matchup that will probably never be made because of lack of funds. Too bad, too; outside of a kayo of Orlando Canizales, there isn't another way for the marvelously talented McKinney to establish himself as a star. McKinney's goal is to replace Wilfredo Gomez as the best 122-pounder ever. His next challenger will be former titlist Jesus Salud. If he's successful, he'll trail Gomez by 14 defenses. Piece of cake.

The third champion is 32-year-old WBA boss Wilfredo Vasquez. The Puerto Rican powerpuncher fights mostly in Europe. The WBA doesn't have a European fighter in

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Wilfredo Vasquez

Best Boxer
Kennedy McKinney

Most Protected
Yuichi Kasai

Is He *Still* Around?
Daniel Zaragoza

Matchmaker's Dream
Kennedy McKinney-Tracy Patterson

Best-Kept Secret
Maui Diaz

Deserves A Title Shot
Welcome Ncita

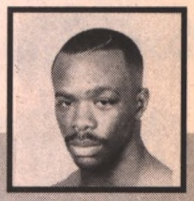
Most Fun To Watch
Rudy Zavala

On The Way Down
Pedro Decima

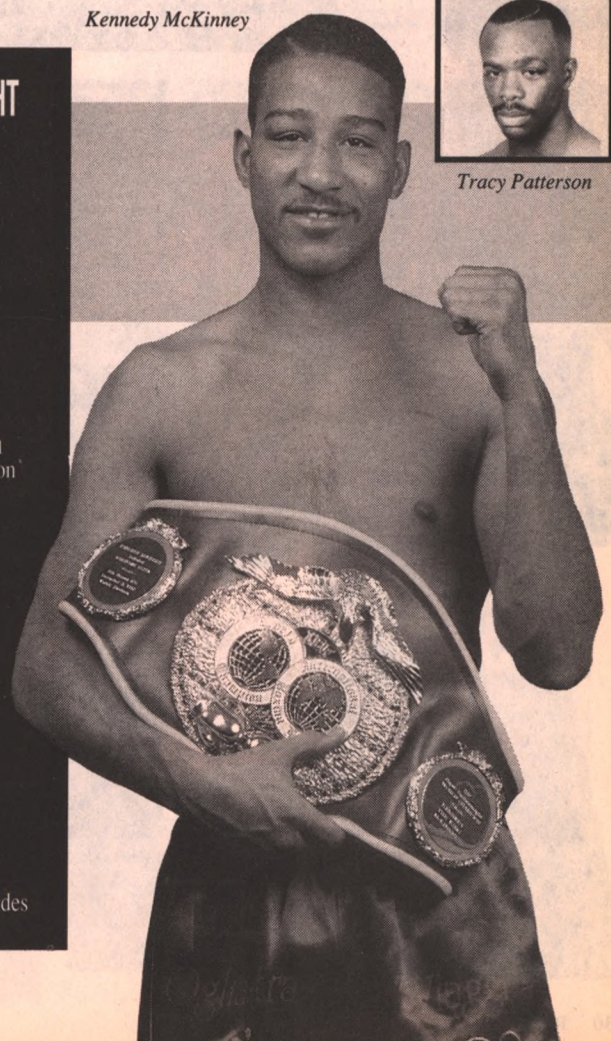
Underrated
Julio Gervacio

Best Fight This Year
Tracy Patterson W 12 Jesse Benavides

Kennedy McKinney



Tracy Patterson



its top 10. We're not sure what this means, but it must mean something.

This division isn't as deep as in recent years. Rudy Zavala has been exposed as a face-first banger, and Welcome Ncita hasn't fought since being bopped by McKinney last December. There are, however, solid contenders, including underrated Julio Gervacio and Mexico's streaking Cesar Soto. Moreover, California prospects Eddie Croft and Maui Diaz are ready to bloom.

Think About It: Will McKinney make historians forget former WBC titlist Wilfredo Gomez? He has a better chance of dethroning Riddick Bowe. Consider what Gomez achieved: The Puerto Rican made 17 successful defenses in six years, *all by kayo*; he defended on the road 11 times; he defeated five world champions (Carlos Zarate, Juan Meza, Royal Kobayashi, Leo Cruz, and Lupe Pintor); he went on to win world titles at featherweight and junior lightweight. That's a pretty tough record to chase.

BANTAMWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Junior Jones

Best Boxer
Orlando Canizales

Most Protected
Harold Mestre

Is He *Still* Around?
Diego Avila

Matchmaker's Dream
Orlando Canizales-Junior Jones

Best-Kept Secret
Eliecer Julio

Deserves A Title Shot
Junior Jones

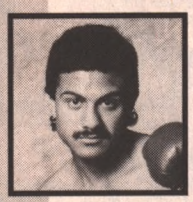
Most Fun To Watch
Cecilio Espino

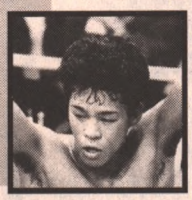
On The Way Down
Rolando Bohol

Underrated
Rafael Del Valle

Best Fight This Year
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi W 12 Victor Rabanales

Junior Jones


Orlando Canizales


Joichiro Tatsuyoshi

Marco Antonio Barrera

BANTAMWEIGHTS

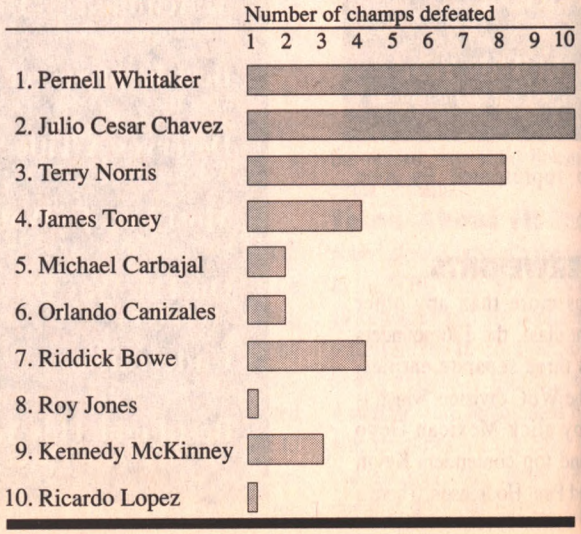
Sometimes the alphabet boys like to mix up their x's, y's, and z's. Consider: The WBC lists Jung Il Byun as its champion and Joichiro Tatsuyoshi as its *interim* champion. Among its top contenders is Victor Rabanales, a former *interim* champion who became a *full-fledged* champion when he beat Tatsuyoshi. That was in their first battle. In the rematch, Tatsuyoshi captured a decision and won the *interim* title. He's now scheduled to face Byun in an in-house unification battle. If you're not confused, maybe you can explain it to us. Wasn't it simpler when Carlos Zarate was king and no one stood a chance?

All that really matters is that IBF champion Orlando Canizales defend against Junior Jones. Canizales has been a mainstay in the pound-for-pound ratings for two or three years, and the unbeaten Jones looks like a future multi-division titlist. Their showdown is overdue. WBA king Eliecer Julio is the division's mystery man. If he continues to defend in his native Colombia, he'll be near-impossible to dethrone. Not too many notable prospects here, unless you count Mexican 115-pounder Marco Antonio Barrera. Where have you gone, Bones Adams?

Think About It: Whatever happened to boxing's most stable title, the WBC bantamweight crown? From May 1976, when Carlos Zarate won the title, to February 1991, when Raul Perez was dethroned by Greg Richardson, there were six champions who averaged five successful defenses. Not bad for a 15-year stretch. Since Richardson's coronation, there have been four champions (and two interim titlists) who have averaged 1 successful defenses.

CHAMPS vs. CHAMPS

One way to determine the quality of a fighter's opposition is to count the number of world champions he's defeated. We considered the 10 fighters listed in THE RING's pound-for-pound ratings. The totals:



JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Without a leader the quality of Gilberto Roman or Khaosai Galaxy, this division tends to shrivel, if not disappear. The three champions, Korea's Sung Kil Moon (WBC), Japan's Katsuya Onizuka (WBA), and Mexico's Julio Borboa (IBF), are hardly one-hit wonders. But are any of them special? A proposed unification between the long-reigning Moon and Onizuka will at least provide the winner with some sparkling credentials.

At this point, we'd pick boxer-puncher Borboa to defeat both Moon and Onizuka. Moon is strong but crude, and his sensitive skin has become a major problem. And "Spanky" Onizuka features a lot more finesse than most Japanese fighters, but was fortunate to capture decisions against both Khaoyai Mahasarakam and Kotaro Hayashi.

The next exceptional 115-pounder will likely be the aforementioned Barrera, who has wowed Southern Californian fight fans with his power and quick-striking capability. Look for the teenager to rise in weight shortly after winning the title.

Think About It: Does this weight class really exist? In the 13-year history of the 115-pound division, there has been only one world titlist, Gilberto Roman, featured in a main event by a major commercial or cable network. This year, there has been one junior bantamweight main event, Marco Antonio Barrera-Elio Dominguez on Prime Ticket. The bout lasted 45 seconds.

FLYWEIGHTS

It's not as if Don King is preparing to invest millions of dollars in the division or HBO is considering flyweights for its 1994 schedule, but for the first time in years, the 112-pounders are headed by a couple of unbeaten champions worth watching. The WBC titlist, Japan-based Russian Yuri Arbachakov, has 13 kayos in 16 fights. The IBF champion, Thailand's Phichit Sithbangprachan, has 12 kayos in 15 bouts. Who ever heard of such knockout percentages for flyweights? The brutish Sithbangprachan is crude, but even harder to fight than pronounce. Arbachakov, far classier, has the look of a long-range champion. He wields a booming right hand, and seems ready to crack the pound-for-pound top 10. The third champion, WBA titlist David Griman, is a speedster from Venezuela. He could also reign for a while.

The flys will gain strength when 108-pounders Michael Carbajal and Chiquita Gonzalez move up. In the meantime, Scotty Olson deserves a title try. Also, watch for flashy Mark Johnson and 1992 Olympian Eric Griffin. Oddly, there's not a single contender who is rated in the top 10s of all three organizations.

Think About It: As usual, there are precious few Americans

FLYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Yuri Arbachakov

Best Boxer
David Griman

Most Protected
Evangelio Perez

Is He *Still* Around?
Jesus Rojas

Matchmaker's Dream
Yuri Arbachakov-David Griman

Best-Kept Secret
San Sor Pleonchit

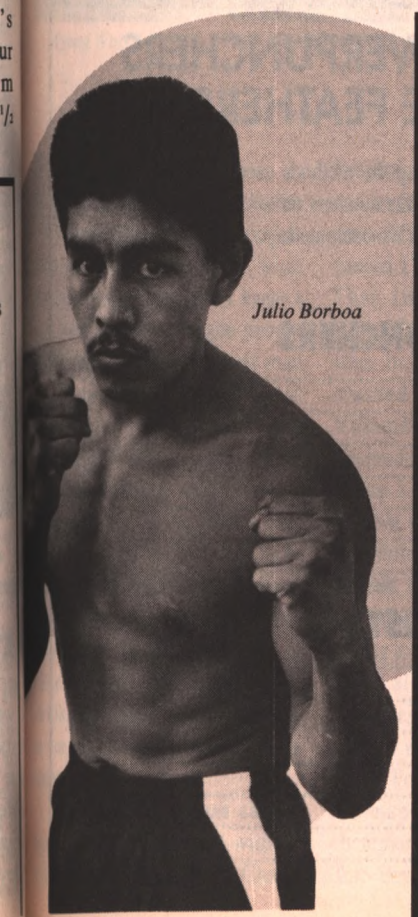
Deserves A Title Shot
Scotty Olson

Most Fun To Watch
Yuri Arbachakov

On The Way Down
Yong Kang Kim

Underrated
Mark Johnson

Best Fight This Year
Yuri Arbachakov KO 9 Muangchai Kittikasem



Julio Borboa

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Marco Antonio Barrera

Best Boxer
Julio Borboa

Most Protected
Cuauthemoc Gomez

Is He *Still* Around?
Nana Konadu

Matchmaker's Dream
Sung Kil Moon-Katsuya Onizuka

Best-Kept Secret
Hiroshi Kawashima

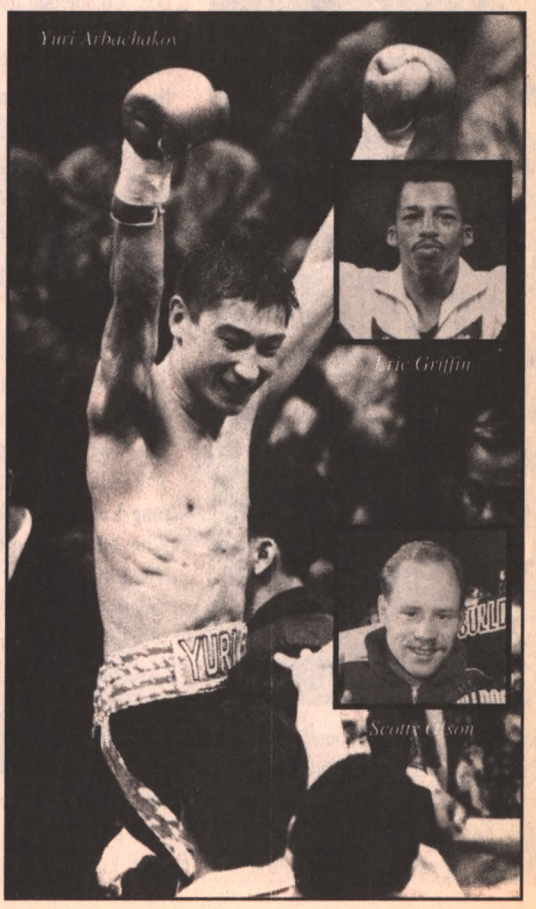
Deserves A Title Shot
Marco Antonio Barrera

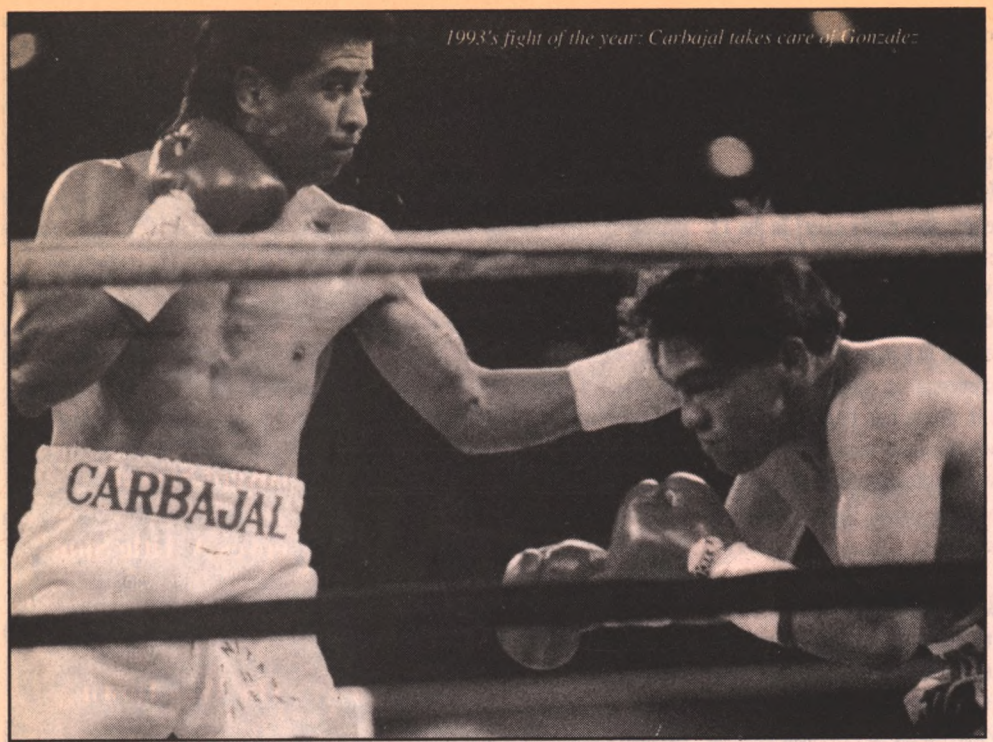
Most Fun To Watch
Marco Antonio Barrera

On The Way Down
Armando Castro

Underrated
Jerry Penalosa

Best Fight This Year
Julio Borboa KO 12 Robert Quiroga





1993's fight of the year: Carbajal takes care of Gonzalez

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Michael Carbajal

Best Boxer
Humberto Gonzalez

Most Protected
Narciso Rodriguez

Is He *Still* Around?
Napa Kiatwanchai

Matchmaker's Dream
Michael Carbajal-Ricardo Lopez

Best-Kept Secret
Miguel Angel Granados

Deserves A Title Shot
Juan Antonio Torres

Most Fun To Watch
Michael Carbajal

On The Way Down
Leo Gamez

Underrated
Domingo Sosa

Best Fight This Year
Michael Carbajal KO 7 Humberto Gonzalez

to be found in the 112-pound world ratings. So what are the odds that within a one-year period, there would be three ranked Americans—all with the same surname? First came John Michael Johnson from Texas, who has grown into a junior bantamweight. Next up was Mark Johnson, a slick fly from Washington, D.C. Completing the trio was Arthur Johnson, a forgotten member of the 1988 Olympic team who is handled by Angelo Dundee. For the record, Ralph Citro's *Computer Boxing Update* lists a total of 28 Johnsons.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

In the 18-year history of the 108-pound class, there have been four noteworthy champions. The first three, Japan's Yoko Gushiken and Korea's Jung Koo Chang and Myung Woo Yuh, reigned in relative obscurity in the Far East. The same cannot be said for WBC/IBF champion Michael Carbajal, who has become a big-money fighter and a significant pay-per-view attraction. In March, "Little Hands Of Stone" secured a place in *everyone's* pound-for-pound top 10 by rising from two knockdowns to kayo defending WBC king Chiquita Gonzalez. Carbajal and his 1988 Olympic teammate, WBA/IBF heavyweight Riddick Bowe, reign as the only partially unified champions in the game.

Carbajal wanted to add the WBA title to his collection, and preliminary negotiations took place with Yuh, but the Korean retired in September. Venezuela's Leo Gamez and Japan's Shiro Yahiro will be matched for the vacant title.

Yahiro, Jesus Chong, and Melchor Cob Castro are solid contenders, but the biggest threat should he move up, is WBC strawweight king Ricardo Lopez.

Think About It: We don't know whether Carbajal will become the first million-dollar flyweight (or junior flyweight), but "Little Hands Of Stone" is indeed special. He is the only American rated in the WBC's top 30, and in March he became the first fighter in the division's 18-year history to at least partly unify the title. Most significantly, unless the last four months of 1993 include some incredible efforts, he's likely to become the first 108-pounder to be named Fighter of the Year.

THE POWERPUNCHERS AND THE FEATHERFISTS

Kayo percentage is among the methods used to judge a fighter's punching power. Here are the numbers on today's world champions, as of September 10, 1993. (We compute kayo percentage by dividing knockouts by total wins.)

THE POWERPUNCHERS

1. Gerald McClellan	.931
2. Roy Jones	.913
3. Julio Borboa	.900
4. Nigel Benn	.865
5. Felix Trinidad	.857
6. Riddick Bowe	.853
7. Eliecer Julio	.846

THE FEATHERFISTS

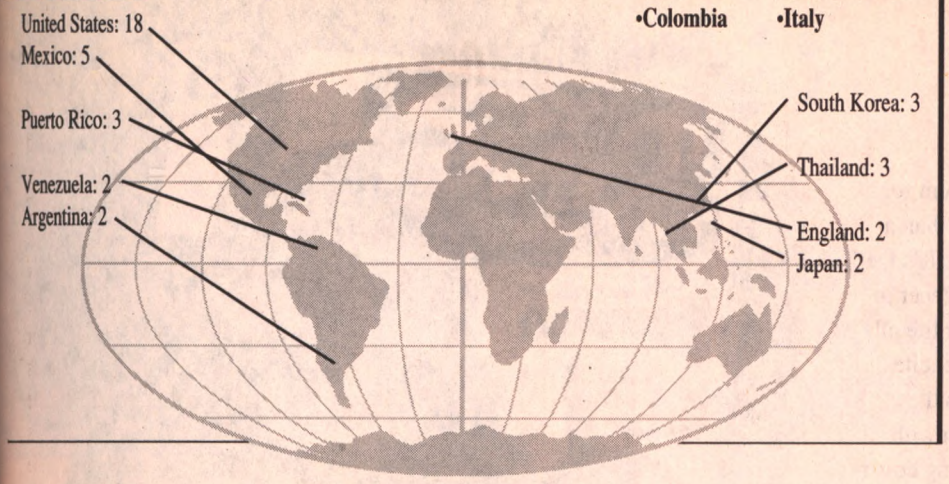
1. Gianfranco Rosi	.298
2. Jung Il Byun	.400
3. Chana Porpaoin	.414
4. Al Cole	.435
5. Henry Maske	.450
6. Pernell Whitaker	.455
7. Anaclet Wamba	.476

THE CHAMPS BY COUNTRIES

The USA once again leads all nations in the championship roll call. The biggest gain was made by Thailand, which went from zero to three. (Champions as of September 10, 1993.)

Eight countries tied with 1:

- •Ghana
- •CIS
- •France
- •Germany
- •Australia
- •South Africa
- •Colombia
- •Italy



Myung Woo Yuh

Melchor Cob Castro

Chana Porpaoin

Jaturong, Singprasert Kittikasem, Aswin Sithlukmuang, Ekawit Singhchatchawal, and Aswin Sasiprakyim. If someone asks *you* to name them, just tell him you'd like to buy a vowel. ■

STRAWWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Ricardo Lopez

Best Boxer
Ricardo Lopez

Most Protected
Kermin Guardia

Is He *Still* Around?
Hi Yong Choi

Matchmaker's Dream
Ricardo Lopez-Chana Porpaoin

Best-Kept Secret
Toto Pow Pongsawang

Deserves A Title Shot
Phalan Lukmingkwan

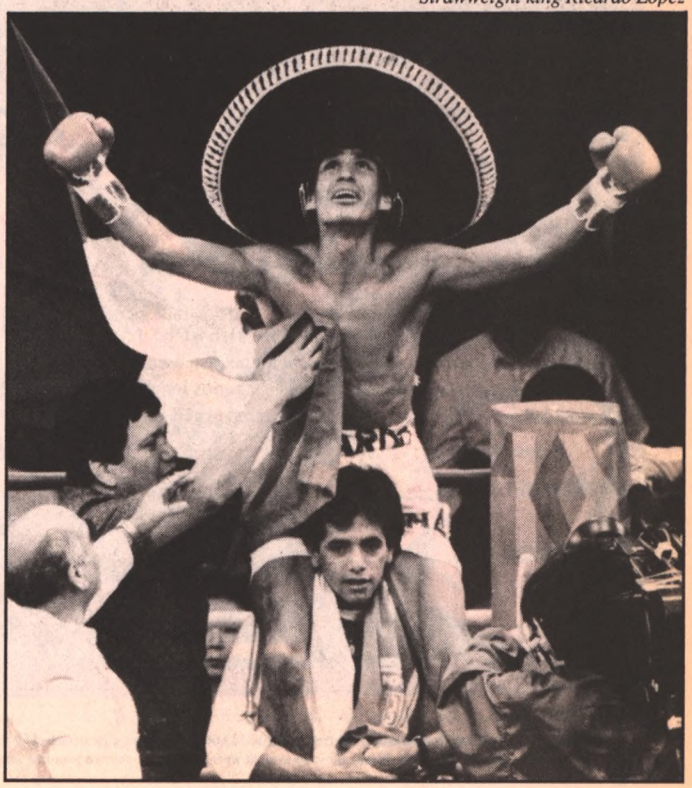
Most Fun To Watch
Ricardo Lopez

On The Way Down
Pretty Boy Lucas

Underrated
Jin Ho Kim

Best Fight This Year
Chana Porpaoin W 12 Carlos Murillo

Strawweight king Ricardo Lopez



STRAWWEIGHTS

WBC champion Lopez is the best fighter this division has ever produced. (We know what you're saying: "Yeah, and I know a guy who's the best bungee-jumper in Wyoming.") That by itself may not be particularly impressive, but should the Mexican rise and dethrone WBC/IBF junior flyweight champion Carbajal, he'll establish himself as one of the game's best fighters. And he's been bad-mouthing Carbajal at every turn. Have trouble getting enthused about 105-pound fighters? Lopez, a boxer-puncher with extraordinary skills, is fantastic to watch. He's never lost a bout, whether pro or amateur.

The other champions cannot match Lopez, but are not without credentials. WBA king Chana Porpaoin is unbeaten in 29 bouts, and in May the Thai successfully defended against Panama's highly touted Carlos Murillo. Another Thai, IBF titlist Ratanapol Sor Vorapin, is a 20-year-old southpaw who, in his most recent defense, crushed future champion Ala Villamor. Among the quality contenders are former champion Phalan Lukmingkwan, Colombia's Kermin Guardia, and Thailand's Toto Pow Polgsawang.

Think About It: The next time one of your friends boasts of his boxing knowledge, challenge him to name all the world-rated Thai strawweights. The complete list, though we doubt you'll need it: Chana Porpaoin (WBA champion), Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (IBF champion), Phalan Lukmingkwan, Toto Pow Polgsawang, Saman Sor

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Here Today, Ghana Tomorrow

IS AZUMAH NELSON NEAR THE END?

By Nigel Collins

Boxing fans have always had a special spot in their hearts for the game's senior citizens. They remind us mortality can be held at bay, at least temporarily, by a stiff jab and sneaky footwork. Boxing's original Methuselah was Jem Mace, who was still swapping leather at age 65. Later came such popular golden oldies as Archie Moore, Jersey Joe Walcott, and George Foreman. Now we have Azumah Nelson, the latest in a venerable line of ageless wonders. He's not quite as long in the tooth as Mace, Moore, Walcott, and Foreman, but he's gaining on them.

From the neck up Nelson, a folk hero at home in Ghana but never more than a cult figure this side of the Atlantic, looks every day of his admitted 35 years. In fact, his creased and noble face could very well belong to a man twice his age. But once the WBC super featherweight champion peels off his robe and begins to fight, his remarkably lithe body is capable of things most fighters a decade younger can only dream about.

Photo By Tom Casino/Showtime

Nelson (right) barely held on to his WBC super featherweight title against Jesse James Leija, and it was his second straight close title defense. So the question is, is the Ghanian Warrior near the end?

If they set Nelson's fights to music, a Beethoven symphony would be appropriate. The master craftsman usually starts slowly, teases with an occasional flourish, and then finishes with a breathtaking crescendo. It is a formula that has served him well. But judging by his most recent title defense, a 12-round draw with Jesse James Leija that served as a provocative lead-in to Pernell Whitaker-Julio Cesar Chavez at the Alamodome, the aging maestro may be rapidly approaching his final encore.

The Leija bout was the second consecutive defense in which Nelson hung on to the belt by an uncomfortably narrow margin. In February he withstood a strong challenge from Gabriel Ruelas and won by majority decision. The Leija fight was an even closer call.

Is the African's lengthy and extraordinary run coming to the end? Or has he merely been tempting fate with a dangerously blase attitude and indifferent performances? Waiting for young, inexperienced challengers to tire before turning on the afterburners is sound strategy, but lately Nelson has stalled until the tomahawk was tickling his scalp.

Cynics will tell you Nelson's laid back demeanor might have something to do with judges' uncanny knack of giving Don King-promoted fighters the benefit of the doubt. Others figure the savvy veteran is simply preserving himself by doing just enough to win.

There was only token squawking when Nelson squeaked past Ruelas, but the Leij verdict, an eerie precursor to the bigge controversy that spoiled the main even prompted a mini-uproar. Even though it wa the sort of fight that contained several clos rounds and could have gone either way, t the partisan crowd at the Alamodom hometown hero Leija clearly deserved t take the belt. And a mixup in the tabulatio of the cards acerbated an already agitate situation.

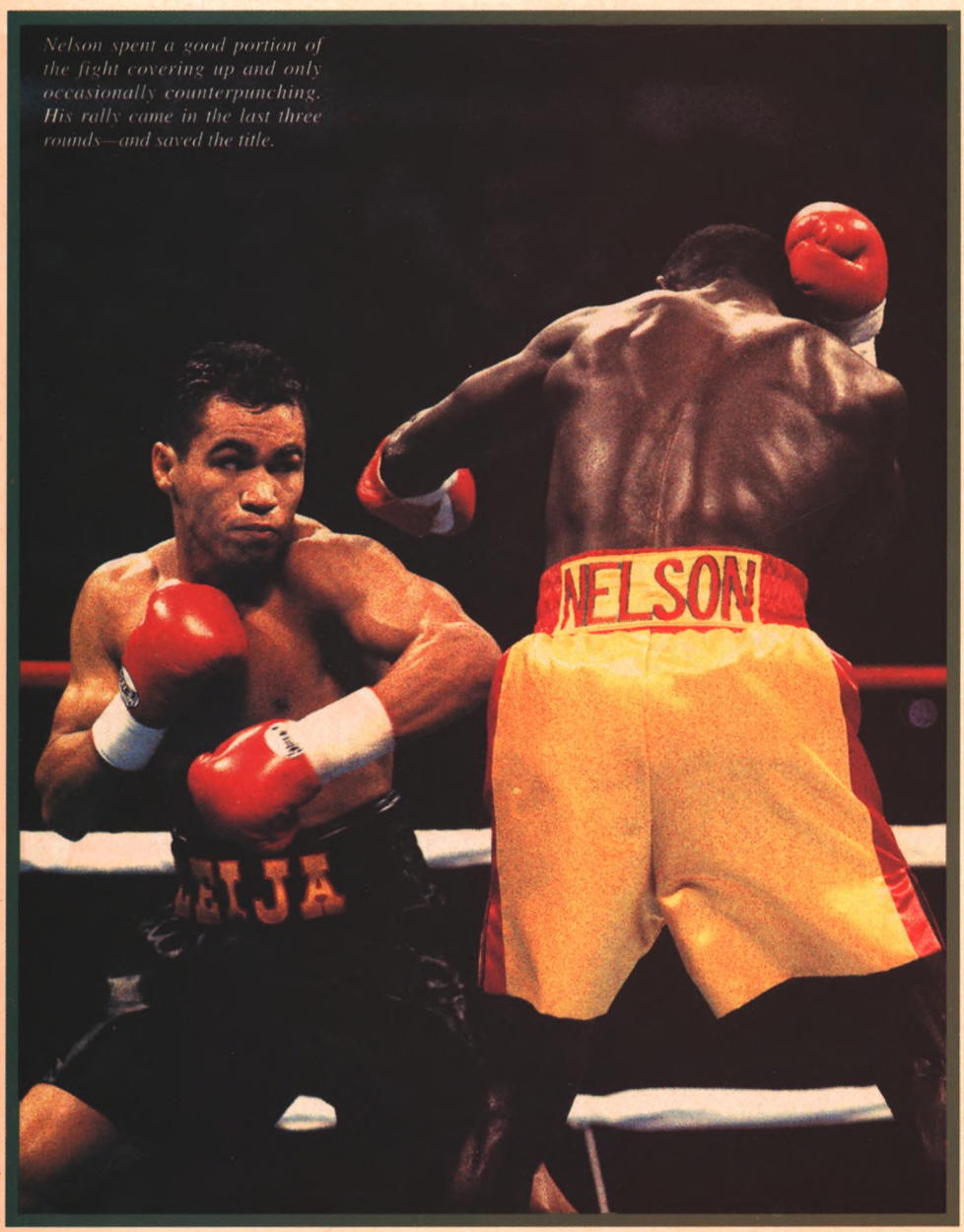
The verdict was initially announced as split decision victory for Nelson, with Keit Dadzie (Ghana) and Daniel Van Del Wie (Belgium) favoring the defending champio by scores of 118-112 and 115-11 respectively, and Lawrence Cole (Texa awarding the fight to Leija by 115-11

Boos were still reverberatin throughout the building sever minutes later, when ring announc Jimmy Lennon Jr. grabbed th microphone and informed th disgruntled patrons that there h been a mistake. It turned out Va Del Wiele's score was actually 115-115 stalemate, meaning Nels still retained the title, but via dra and not victory.

(For the record: Dadzie, wh had been recommended to th WBC by the African Boxin Council, is the same judge who w suspended for two days at the 19 Olympics after scoring back-t back 0-0 rounds on th computerized scoring system. Th WBC told THE RING it was unawa of Dadzie's history.)

The revamped scoring didn placate Leija, his camp, or h 60,000-strong rooting section. Th all went home convinced the homeboy had been flim-flamm With so much emotion invested, i easy to understand how they fe but to more objective eyes, t decision looked well within th bounds of reason. Like so many Nelson's recent outings, he offer a subtle, controlled performan He carefully measured out h energy, doing just enough to sw the judges, but not enough convince everyone he deserved keep the belt.

The first half of the fight w



Nelson spent a good portion of the fight covering up and only occasionally counterpunching. His rally came in the last three rounds—and saved the title.

Photo By Tom Casino/Showtime

heavy on suspense and light on sustained action. Leija was discreetly aggressive, taking the fight to Nelson in the reserved manner of a student debating his professor. Instead of rudely rushing in and trying to knock his elder's whiskers off, he boxed politely from the outside, opening up only when a good shot from Nelson forced him to respond in kind. Thunderous cheers and shouts of "Lay-ha" erupted every time the Mexican-American connected, making it sound like Leija was accomplishing more than he actually was.

Confident to a fault, Nelson probed with his jab and looped an occasional hard blow past Leija's guard. He sometimes danced with his arms dangling at his sides, acting like he knew he had everything under control. It might take a few rounds, but the old wrangler was sure he'd tame the young bronco and ride off into the sunset, his championship belt still cinched safely around his waist.

Action intensified midway through the seventh, when serious punches began to replace the tentative blows of earlier rounds. There were several brisk exchanges before Leija won the session with a jarring right to the head that sent a shower of sweat flying from Nelson's wizened brow. The fighters were both beginning to put a little passion into their work, and the advantage see-sawed back and forth over the next three rounds.

Leija's punches appeared slightly sharper in the eighth and ninth, and it began to look like his youthful energy and reflexes would be too much for Nelson to handle. But the champion shifted into overdrive down the stretch and slipstreamed past his suddenly sputtering challenger like a vintage sportscar on the straightaway. He swept the last three heats with a virtuoso display, taking the fight to Leija on surprisingly spry legs. He feinted his way inside, unfurled hard punches that found new holes in Leija's defense, and was unquestionably the fresher of the two at the finish. Even so, the decision brought plenty of bellyaching from Leija and his handlers.

"I know I won the fight," said Leija, 26-0-2 (12). "I don't even have to say anything."

(Continued on page 55)

After the Nelson-Leija decision was announced, Nelson stated his case to Showtime's Ferdie Pacheco. Nelson, still a young 35 years of age, says he's ready for a jump to lightweight.

Photo By Holly Stein/Showtime

Nelson also needed a fast finish to get by Gabriel Ruelas by a majority decision in February.

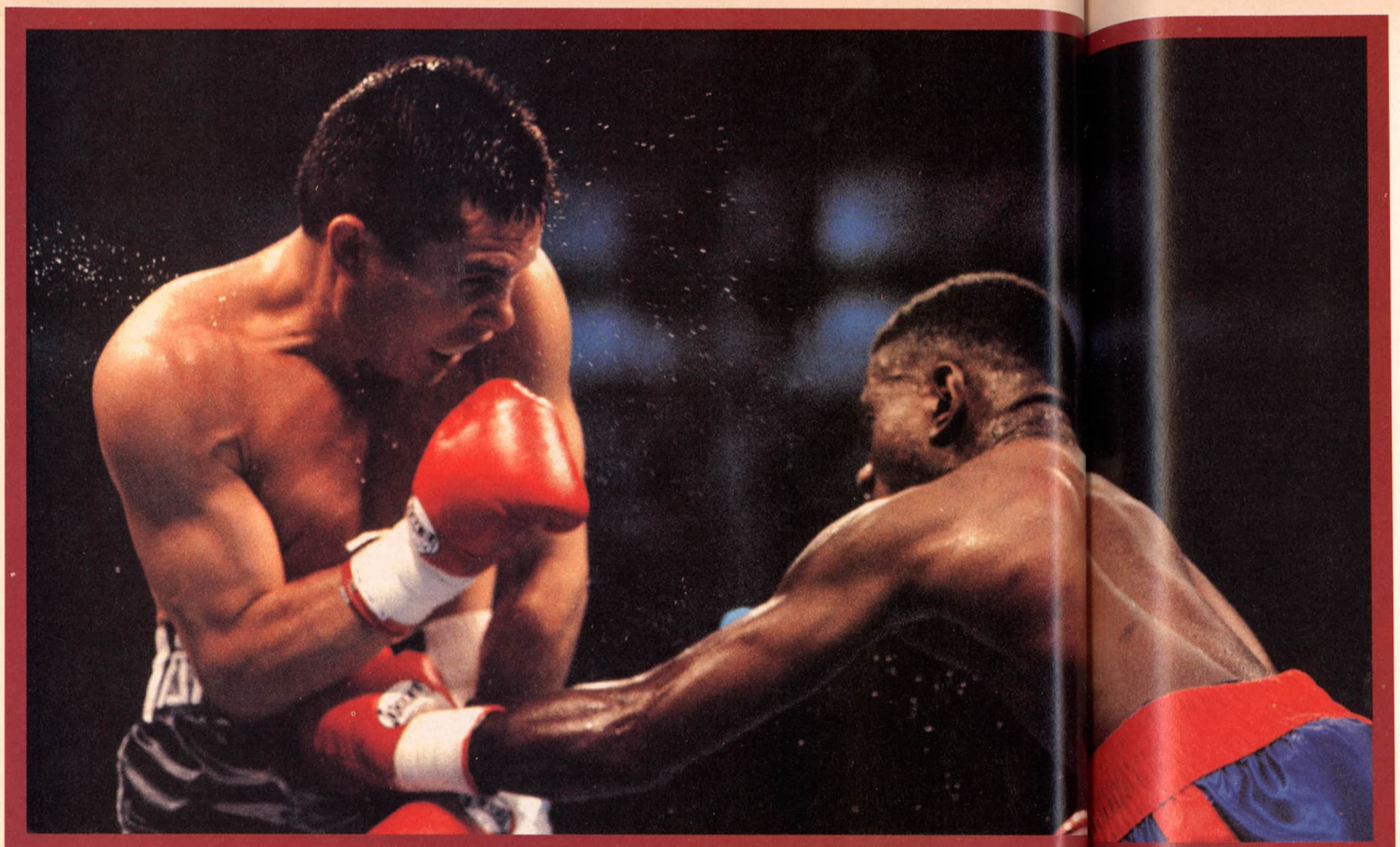
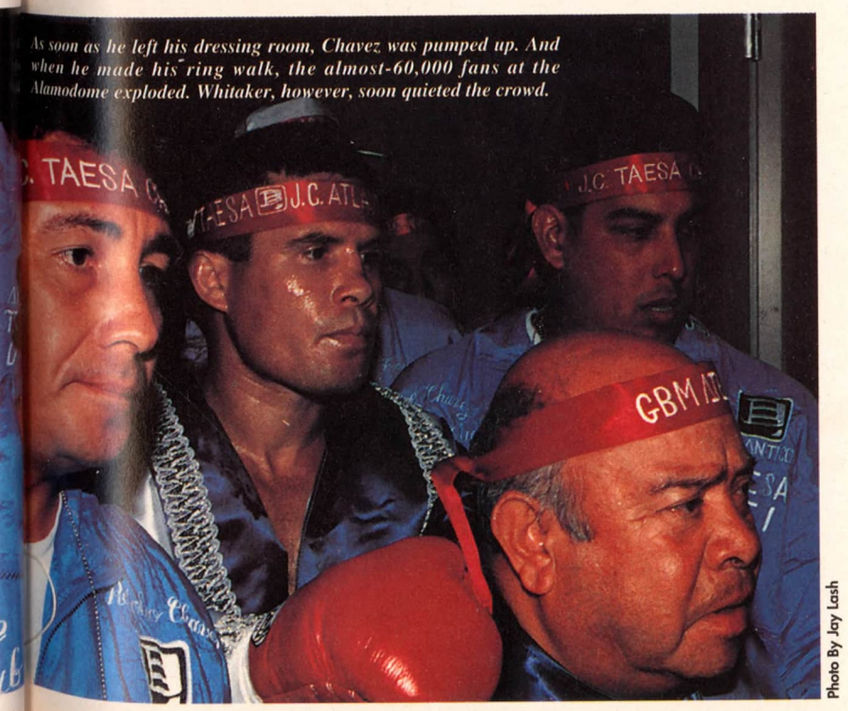


Photo By Tom Casino/Showtime

WAS PERNELL WHITAKER ROBBED AGAINST CHAVEZ?



As soon as he left his dressing room, Chavez was pumped up. And when he made his ring walk, the almost-60,000 fans at the Alamodome exploded. Whitaker, however, soon quieted the crowd.

Photo By Jay Lash

By Steve Farhood

Julio Cesar Chavez' answers were quick, simple, often monosyllabic. But the press conference following his September 10 showdown vs. defending WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker was as revealing as anything that has ever happened in his ring battles. As Dan Duva, Whitaker's promoter, rose to exit the interview room and leave Chavez and Don King to contend with the media, he asked the Mexican to acknowledge his opponent's courage.

It seemed a reasonable request. Duva wasn't asking Chavez to admit defeat, only that he had competed against a boxer with the heart of a champion.

"That's the only thing I want," said Duva. "I just want to hear you say Whitaker has balls. Then I'll be happy."

Chavez couldn't do it. Or wouldn't.

"I don't think *I* have balls anymore because he hit me so low," was his response. Everyone laughed, and Chavez flashed that irresistible smile, a weapon that can be just as effective as his hook to the liver. For the first time all night, the easy way out had worked.

Moments later, Chavez answered a question about Whitaker by asking, "Why should I respect him?" This time there was no smile.

Remember Montreal in June 1980, when Roberto Duran, who had just outpointed Sugar Ray Leonard, found it terribly difficult to credit his opponent?

"For me it's victory," Chavez said of the controversial draw against Whitaker. Then he smiled again. Duran would've snarled. Otherwise, there was no difference.

Why should you respect Pernell Whitaker, Julio? Because he kicked your butt.

***

Macho being macho, it's both unfair and unrealistic to expect Chavez to damn the scorecards and confess to the world Whitaker beat him. But deep down, he has to know, right? He just *has* to. After all, it was Chavez who sampled Whitaker's jabs and left crosses, who sponged his body shots, who misfired against a constantly shifting target. And it was Chavez who entered the ring by pumping his fists to a wild and screaming crowd of 57,000 at the Alamodome, and exited to a cold and empty hum.

Chavez had to know, and if he wasn't sure, the press, Hispanic writers included, confirmed his suspicions. Not a single reporter scored his way—or at least admitted to having done so. One informal poll had 14 writers favoring Whitaker by an average margin of three points and two calling the bout even.

Still, you're not about to hear Chavez call the biggest fight of the year a robbery. He had fought hard against an opponent he granted was "very difficult." In a rematch, he promised, things would be different. Now he knew Whitaker's style. Besides, the beer won't be any less cold in Culiacan because he's 87-0-1, will it?

87-0-*1*.

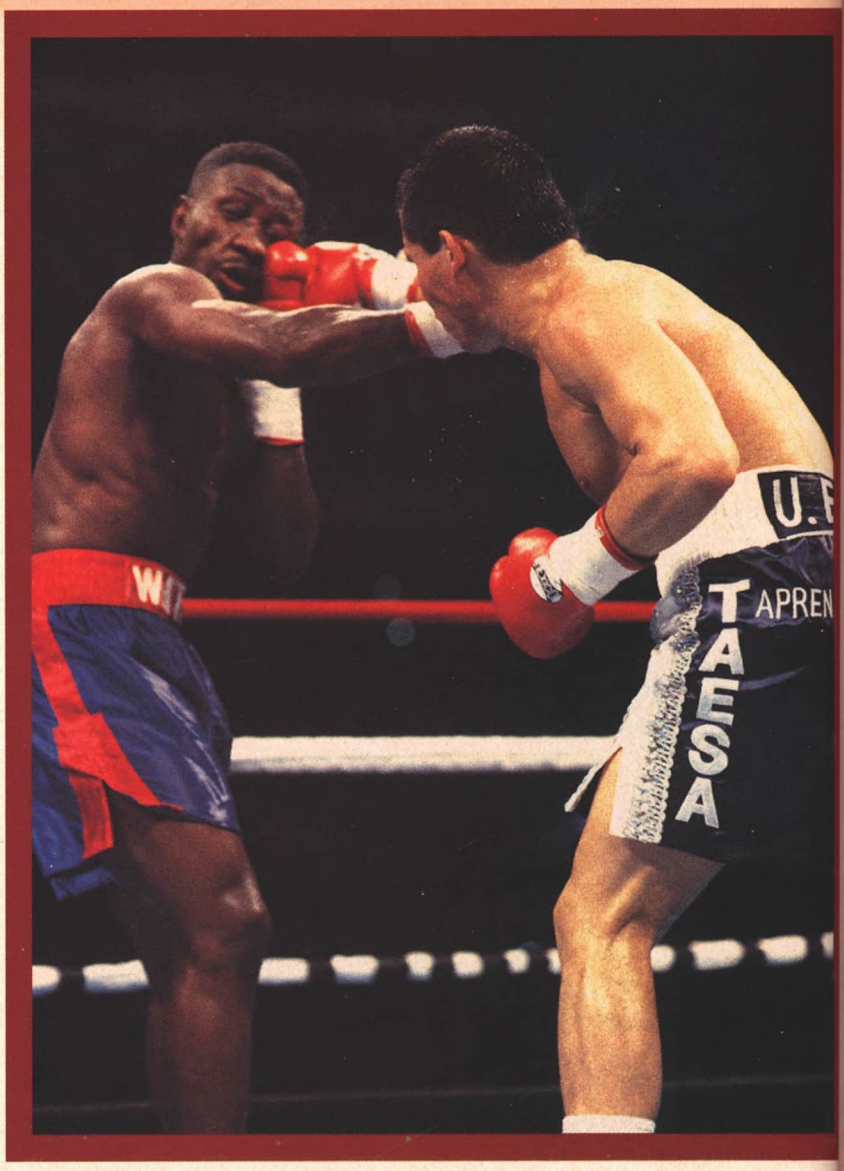
"You don't think that's perfect?" Chavez asked, punching a hole in a reporter's question. His followup? You guessed it—that damn smile.

***

The morning after the fight, Fernando Paramo, a writer for the Los Angeles-based *La Opinion*, the largest Spanish-language newspaper in the U.S., spoke with Chavez in the fighter's room at the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio. It was a comfortable setting and a likely time for Chavez to let his guard down. So he knew the truth, right?

"I feel he was being honest, and in his

Chavez introduced all of his weapons, including his lead right, which occasionally landed. But the challenger was never able to hurt Whitaker.



mind he didn't lose," said Paramo. "He said he wasn't able to use his left hand, and there were certain elementary things he didn't do, but he really thought he won."

Later that day, Chavez flew home to Culiacan and was greeted by 500 neighbors. The reception reportedly drove him to tears.

"There was a general letdown; Julio didn't live up to expectations," said Paramo. "He was supposed to lose three or four rounds and then wipe the guy out. In Mexico, seven of 10 newspapers agreed that Whitaker was robbed, and maybe eight of 10 people believe Whitaker won. But nobody blames Chavez. The perception is that Whitaker ran and was very difficult to fight. The first phone call Chavez received at home was from [Mexican] President Salinas. He told him, 'We're behind you.'"

Chavez, who remains the WBC super lightweight champion, cut off the ring, punched up and down, and tried a variety of tactics. Who would doubt next time out he'll do the same and win in spectacular fashion? But in the quintessential boxer-puncher matchup, the puncher was swatting at shadows. Whitaker had to be good to survive and brilliant to win. He was better than that.

Whitaker, 145, Norfolk, Virginia, trained by watching tapes of Michael Jordan, but he opened more like Michael

QUICK ON THE DRAW

The scoring of the Pernell Whitaker-Julio Cesar Chavez showdown resulted in one of the most controversial decisions of the decade. The round-by-round numbers:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Franz Marti													
Chavez	10	10	10	9	10	9	9	9	10	10	9	10	115
Whitaker	9	9	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	9	10	10	115
Mickey Vann													
Chavez	10	10	9	9	10	10	9	9	10	9	10	10	115
Whitaker	9	9	10	10	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	9	115
Jack Woodruff													
Chavez	10	10	9	10	10	9	9	9	10	9	9	9	113
Whitaker	9	9	10	9	9	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	115
THE RING													
Chavez	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	9	9	10	111
Whitaker	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	9	117

WHATTA YA WANNA DO TONIGHT, MARTI?

Most boxing writers and fans believe judges Mickey Vann and Franz Marti cost Pernell Whitaker a deserved decision victory over Julio Cesar Chavez. Who are these guys? What were their reputations going into the fight? And who picked them to work the biggest bout of the year?

Before Whitaker-Chavez, there was a lot of bickering about the selection of the officials. No one seemed to have a problem with Nevada-based referee Joe Cortez, who is considered one of the best in the game. As for the judges, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, the local governing body, insisted on decision-making power. Their most controversial move was to include a judge from Texas, Jack Woodruff, who, at the championship level, was far less experienced than Vann and Marti. Chavez, King, and even Sulaiman objected to Woodruff because a judge from Mexico, or at least a Latin country, had not been assigned as well.

Vann and Marti were included on a list of 11 names the WBC submitted to Texas. According to the WBC, the others were Jai Bong Kim and Dae Eun Chung (South Korea), Malcolm Bulner (Australia), Sid Nathan (England), Ladislao Sanchez (Venezuela), Anek Hongtongkam (Thailand), Guiseppe Ferrari (Italy), Angel Luis Guzman (Puerto Rico), and Daniel Van Del Wiele (Belgium). Van Del Wiele worked the Azumah Nelson-Jesse James Leija title fight on the undercard.

The Texas commission presented a short list of five judges to each camp the weekend before the fight. The camps were allowed one scratch each, and Team Whitaker dumped Guzman. Team Chavez didn't use their scratch, reportedly because they presumed all three judges would be from neutral countries.

Vann and Marti, who are also licensed WBC referees, seemed fair picks.

"Their history suggested they were the best under pressure," an informed source told THE RING. "All their judging and refereeing—there had been no problems."

In 1989, Marti was the only judge to have Jim McDonnell in front after 11 rounds of the Englishman's 12th-round kayo loss to Azumah Nelson, who is among the most established of WBC champions. In Chavez-Roger Mayweather II, won by the Mexican via 10th-round TKO, Marti had Chavez ahead by nine points at the time of the stoppage. Neither card was particularly unreasonable.

Mickey Vann referees the WBC strawweight title fight between Hideyuki Ohashi and Napa Kiatwanchai in June 1990.

Last December, Vann had Wales' Nicky Piper ahead of WBC super middleweight champion Nigel Benn before Piper suffered an 11th-round stoppage. The other two judges had Benn ahead. And in March 1992, Vann scored against Daniel Zaragoza in the Mexican's unsuccessful defense of the WBC super bantamweight title vs. Thierry Jacob in Calais, France. (Jacob won by unanimous verdict.) Again, neither card seemed out of line.

"There was no way to have guessed they would score Whitaker-Chavez as they did," said the source.

WBC President Jose Sulaiman was unavailable for comment; the morning after the fight he flew to Thailand, where he was honored by the king.

"I don't think there was any big problem with the scoring [of Whitaker-Chavez]," said Eduardo Lamazon, the WBC's executive secretary. "I had the fight 115-115, the same as the two judges. I would accept one point in favor of Whitaker, but I would not accept one point in favor of Chavez. As they do with all title fights, the executive committee will review the work of the judges."

—SF

Photo By Tom Casino/Showtime

Jackson. Overexcited, the southpaw frantically circled the ring in the first round, motoring mostly to his right. Chavez, 142, Culiacan, Mexico, scored with a pair of rights and carried the round.

The second stanza was close. Not yet sticking in his jab, Whitaker relied on a short left uppercut and a counter left. Chavez answered with a pair of lead rights, but found himself reaching for his foe. THE RING gave the round to Whitaker, but Chavez swept it on the three official cards.

Whitaker's jab became a factor in the

As the fight progressed, Whitaker grew in confidence and decided he could trade with Chavez at close range. He landed at least as many body shots, and most of the effective ones.

Whitaker's southpaw jab, which is among boxing's best, allowed him to score almost at will. For the most part, however, Chavez, macho throughout, never stopped moving forward.

third, a round in which Chavez offered minimal offense. In the fourth, the crowd began roaring "Cha-vez! Cha-vez!" for the first time. The infighting was chippy, and early in the round referee Joe Cortez scolded both fighters. Whitaker responded by slapping away the referee's hand. Before Cortez could punish him, however, "Sweet Pea" apologized in the form of a friendly hug.

Late in the fourth Whitaker landed a left, then a right-left, and Chavez backed up. He reestablished his forward progress in the fifth, though walking into several jabs. Just before the bell, the welterweights traded powerpunches without doing any damage.

Round six turned out to be the most significant of the fight. Punching to the body with growing confidence, Whitaker fired a left into Chavez' groin. The challenger turned away and grimaced, and Cortez called a timeout, which lasted 45 seconds. Only a few seconds later, Whitaker again punched low. ("He was hitting me with low blows intentionally," Chavez later said.) Cortez chose not to issue a penalty, but at the bell, judge Mickey Vann (England), who scored the round 10-9 for Chavez, made his own decision.

"I deducted a point from Whitaker for an appallingly low blow in the sixth round," he was quoted as saying in London's *Daily Star*. "The referee did not issue a formal warning, but I took the point from him anyway." (He later denied making the statement.) Vann, who has worked as a referee in world title fights, apparently forgot the parameters of his role. Had he scored the round 10-10, Whitaker would have won by majority decision.

Whitaker shined in the seventh and eighth, the only rounds he won on all three cards. Every time Chavez cornered him, he spun to his right (so Jordanesque). In ring center he was sensational, jabbing, crossing and turning Chavez' head with counter lefts. But Chavez darted from his corner at the start of the ninth, his best round in half a dozen. He missed often but landed some and when, late in the round, he struck three times to the body, it seemed a turning point.

Whitaker, 32-1-1 (15), quashed such possibility at the start of the 10th by smacking Chavez, 87-0-1 (75), with lefts from different angles. The Mexican rallied late in the round, which he won on one of the cards. Slowing slightly, Whitaker held through much of the 11th. He also connected with the cleaner punches, and

(Continued on page 5

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2) Henry Tillman
3) Joe Frazier
4) Mike Tyson

He was the only undefeated heavyweight champion

1) Rocky Marciano
2) Joe Louis
3) Jack Dempsey
4) Rocky Graziano

Which man is known as "The Fight Doctor"?

1) Don King
2) Angelo Dundee
3) Ferdie Pacheco
4) Howard Cosell

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3) the kidneys
4) the back of the head

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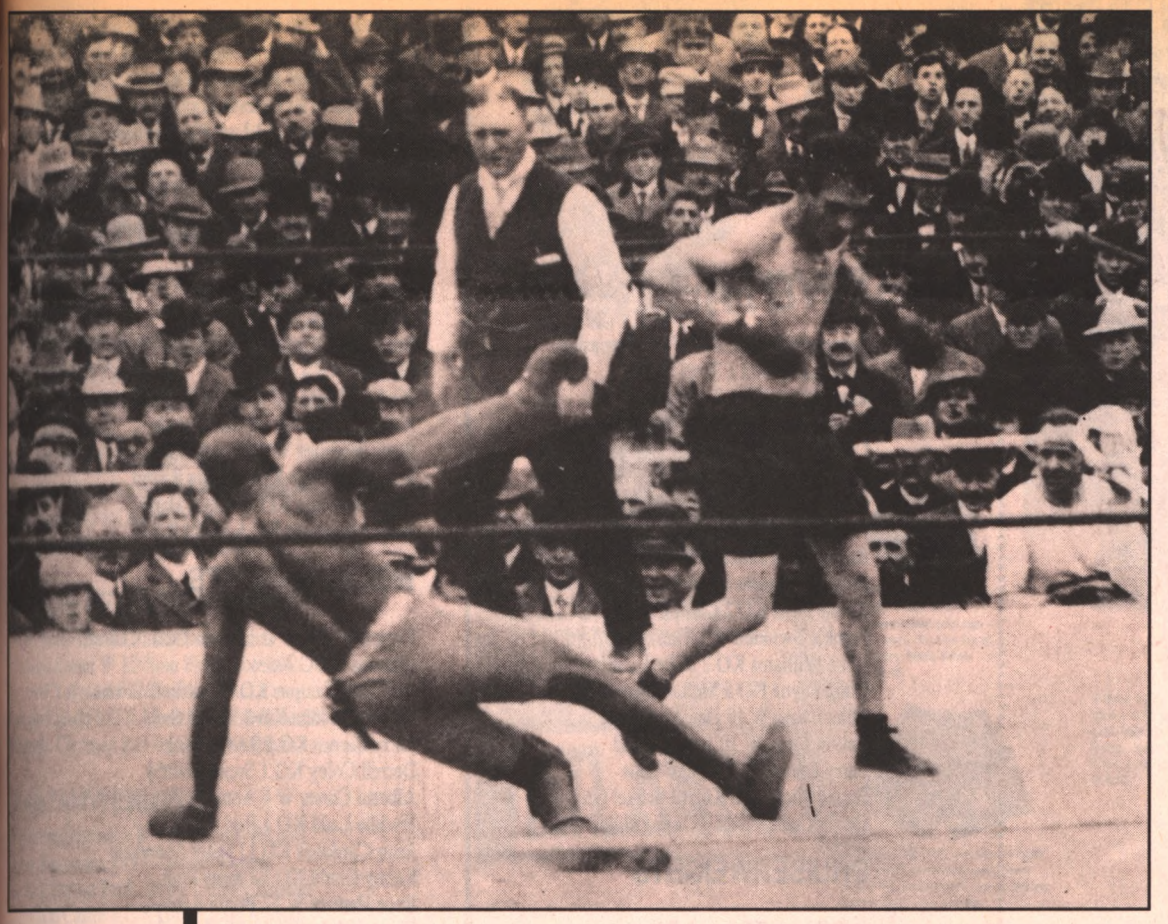
Photo By Tom Casino/Showtime

More Than Just A Manager

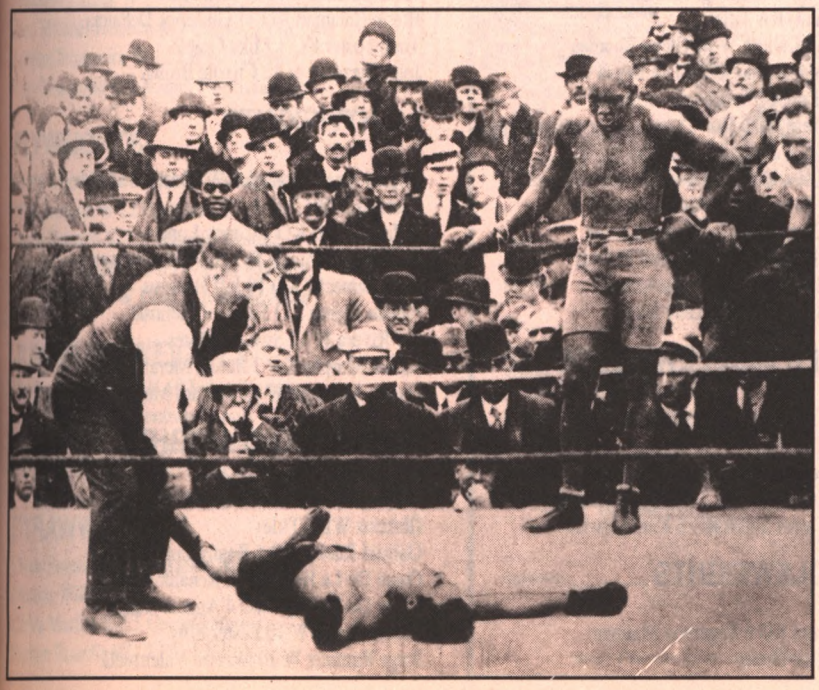
WILLIS BRITT

The Man Who Conned Jack Johnson Into Fighting Stanley Ketchel

Middleweight titlist Ketchel and heavyweight king Johnson made an odd pair. They were among the most high-profile champions of the modern era's first 25 years.



In round 12, Ketchel shocked Johnson, driving him to the floor with a haymaker of a right (above). Johnson didn't like being embarrassed, and before the end of the round, he felled "The Michigan Assassin" for the count (below).



By Vernon Gravely

Stanley Ketchel swung a hard right at Jack Johnson. The shot was far from clean, landing behind the ear. Nevertheless, it dropped the first black heavyweight champion and brought the crowd to its feet.

As the audience cheered Ketchel, no doubt the world middleweight champion and his manager, Willis Britt, felt their 10 months of hard work was about to pay off. But their exhilaration would be squashed within seconds.

As Ketchel rushed in for the kill, Johnson sprang to his feet and connected with a pulverizing flurry that laid out the White Hope for the entire count.

In the more than eight decades since the two legendary figures faced off, speculation still exists: Was the knockdown scored by Ketchel genuine? Was it included only for the benefit of the fans and motion picture profits? Was it prearranged or merely a stunt concocted by Johnson? Whatever the case, it proved to be the last time a middleweight champion fought for the heavyweight title. And it was all made possible by the scheming mind of one man.

(Continued on page 57)

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Tommy Morrison KO 4 Tim Tomashek
Jimmy Ellis KO 1 Tony Tubbs
Ray Mercer KO 1 Tony Willis
Garing Lane KO 2 Alex Garcia
Corrie Sanders KO 1 George Stephens
Iran Barkley KO 9 Dino Stewart
Jorge Luis Gonzalez KO 2 Kimmuel Odum
Phil Jackson KO 5 Mike Dixon
Bonecrusher Smith KO 6 Elijah Tillery
Jeremy Williams KO 1 Doug Davis
Boone Pultz KO 7 Carlton West
Frankie Swindell W 6 Danny Wofford
Mike Williams KO 2 Mike Hoard
Craig Payne KO 5 Melton Bowen
Mike Evans W 10 Dan Murphy
Calvin Jones W 10 James Broad
Larry Donald KO 3 Mike Gans
Danell Nicholson KO 4 Michael Greer
Gerrie Coetzee KO 2 Dave Fiddler

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Orlin Norris KO 4 Jack Basting
Marcelo Figueroa KO 3 Earl Talley
Uriah Grant KO 1 Perfecto Gonzalez
Johnny Nelson KO 1 Tom Collins
Sergei Kobozev W 10 John Ruiz
Jason Waller KO 1 Alonzo Cutchins

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Virgil Hill W 12 Sergio Merani
(Retains WBA Title)
Mike McCallum W 10 Glenn Thomas
Ernie Magdaleno KO 2 Tim Bryan
Frank Tate KO 9 Eduardo Armenta
Frank Tate KO 6 Ron Cramner
Adolpho Washington W 8 Tim Noble
Frank Liles KO 8 Cecil McKenzie
Robert Folley KO 2 Wayne Hedrick
Jesus Castaneda KO 9 Isaias Lucero
Lenny LaPaglia KO 5 Darrell Fromm
Montell Griffin KO 3 Mike Garcia
Montell Griffin W 6 Kady King

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

James Toney W 10 Larry Prather
(Non-Title Bout)
Antoine Byrd W 10 Sonny Brennan
Mauro Galvano KO 3 David McCluskey
Fidel Castro Smith KO 6 Karl Barwise

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Roy Jones KO 6 Sugarboy Malinga
(Non-Title Bout)
Thomas Tate W 10 Eduardo Ayala
Roberto Duran KO 6 Sean Fitzgerald
Lupe Aquino W 12 Lalo Gutierrez
Lupe Aquino KO 1 Everardo Armenta
Derrick Rolon KO 1 Lawrence Jackson
Rollin Williams W 10 Walid Underwood
Lonnie Bradley KO2 Artie Bright

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Terry Norris KO 1 Joe Gatti
(Retains WBC Title)
Julio Cesar Vasquez W 12 Aaron Davis
(Retains WBA Title)
Winky Wright KO 1 Levon Rouse
Harold Brazier W 10 Gary Smith
Steve Martinez W 10 Heath Todd
Javier Castillejo KO 4 Javier Rivera
Buster Drayton KO 4 Robert Harris
Rene Arredondo KO 6 James Rivas

WELTERWEIGHTS

Pernell Whitaker D 12 Julio Cesar Chavez
(Retains WBC Title)
Yori Boy Campas KO 1 Griffin Goleman
Santos Cardona KO 2 Rafael Solis
Larry Barnes KO 2 Tomas Diaz
Derrell Coley KO 1 Saoul Mamby
Alberto Cortes W 8 Antonio Ocasio
Freddie Ladd KO 1 Eric Ward
Jesus Cardenas KO 11 Fidel Avendano
Kenny Gould KO 5 Jimmy Paul
Rene Herrera W 12 Primo Ramos
Skipper Kelp KO 1 Mike Powell
Gene Hatcher KO 4 Simon Moya

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Juan Coggi W 12 Jose Barboza
(Retains WBA Title)
Kostya Tszyu W 10 Livingstone Bramble
Valery Kayumba KO 1 Osbourne Allen
Frankie Mitchell KO 5 Han Kim
Efrem Calamati KO 11 Giuseppe DePalma
Todd Foster KO 1 Mike Grable
John Bizzarro W 12 Charlie Brown

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 David Sample
(Retains WBC Title)
Rafael Ruelas KO 1 Conny Lopez
Leavander Johnson KO 10 Bobby Brewer
Joey Gamache KO 10 Jeff Bumpus
Fabian Tejeda KO 5 Daniel Zielinski
Joe Rivera W 12 Silverio Flores
Lamar Murphy KO 7 Rafael Meran
Danny Myburgh W 12 Edward Mogemi

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Azumah Nelson D 12 Jesse James Leija
(Retains WBC Title)
Gabriel Ruelas KO 5 Benny Lopez
Oscar De La Hoya KO 6 Renaldo Carter
Oscar De La Hoya KO 4 Angelo Nunez
Calvin Grove W 10 Lester Ellis
Jorge Ramirez W 10 Narciso Valenzuela

Marcos Guevara KO 7 Yuji Watanabe
Steve Cruz W 6 Vicente Castillo
Juan Carlos Rodrigues KO 1 Rowdy Welch
Miguel Arrozal W 10 Mario Gomez
Lance Holcomb W 10 John Roby

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Tom Johnson W 12 Baby Sugar Rojas
(Retains IBF Title)
Tom Johnson W 10 Jose Garcia
(Non-Title Bout)
Yung Kyun Park W 12 Chun Tae Shik
(Retains WBA Title)
Goyo Vargas KO 3 Clifford Hicks
(Non-Title Bout)
Kevin Kelley W 10 Pat Simeon
Alejandro Gonzalez KO 2 Luisito Espinosa
Eloy Rojas KO 6 Carlos Uribe
Paul Banke W 10 Antonio Ramirez

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Jesse Benavides KO 1 Ramiro Valero
Richard Duran W 10 Juan Francisco Soto
Hiroaki Yokota KO 2 Ruben De La Cruz
Sergio Liendo KO 6 Almir Fernandez de Oliveira
Antonio Cermano KO 4 Ramon Guzman

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Vincenzo Belcastro W 12 Antonio Picardi
Junai Ramayana KO 7 Samuel Duran
Cecilio Espino Tech. Draw 5 Rudy Bradley
Armando Castro KO 8 Guadalupe Beltran
Steve Mwema D 10 Siphiwe Pamana
Sergio Reyes W 6 Jaime Olvera
Tim Austin KO 1 Hector Lara

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Julio Cesar Borboa KO 3 Carlos Mercado
(Retains IBF Title)
Marco Antonio Barrera W 12 Eduardo Ramirez
Armando Salazar W 10 Facundo Rodriguez
John Michael Johnson KO 6 Rodolfo Robles
Lamhot Simamora W 12 Lucas Matthew
Toto Mokorotlo KO 4 Juan Pablo Salazar

FLYWEIGHTS

Scotty Olson KO 4 Facundo Rodriguez
Mark Johnson W 12 Armando Diaz
Danny Romero KO 5 Orlando Malone
Francisco Tejedor KO 5 Livaniel Alvarez
Miguel Martinez W Disq. 6 Antonio Ruiz

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Humberto Gonzalez W 10 Pablo Tiznado
Jesus Chong KO 8 Gerardo Garcia
Jesus Herrera W 12 Jorge Roman
Jose Valdez W 12 Ulises Chong

STRAWWEIGHTS

Chana Porpaoin W 12 Ronnie Magramo
(Retains WBA Title)
Carlos Murillo KO 5 Oscar Reinoso
Kermin Guardia KO 7 Fidel Julio

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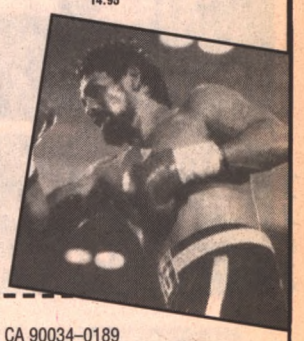

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FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

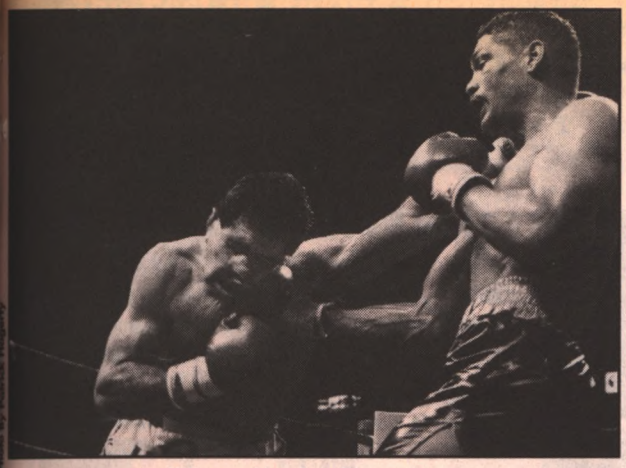
Photo By Joy Lash

In most cases, a defending champion is satisfied with a draw because he gets to keep title. But on September 10, WBC welterweigh king Pernell Whitaker was more concerned wi winning the only title that mattered to him: be fighter, pound-for-pound, in boxing.

Whitaker outclassed Julio Cesar Chavez but was denied victory by two of the judges, who scored the bout a draw. Almost everyone else the fight for Whitaker, who produced a near-perfect performance over 12 masterful rounds. *(See story on page 38.)*

The best fighter in boxing? It's an unofficial title, so we don't need to check the scorecards conclude that Whitaker's now the one. For "Sweet Pea," we're sure that's satisfying enou

Pernell Whitaker



Hill turned heads in Bismarck

Virgil Hill W 12 Sergio Merani

Bismarck, North Dakota—It didn't matter that just a couple of months ago surgeons sliced open Hill's left shoulder, removing bone chips and relieving the acromio-clavicular joint that in April almost got him ambushed by Fabrice Tiozzo in France. Hill, 174½, Bismarck, successfully defended the WBA light heavyweight crown for the 13th time (over two reigns), using his trademark jab to keep Merani off-balance at the Civic Center. The scoring was unanimous (two totals of 119-112 and 119-109).

Merani, 174½, Cordoba, Argentina, was ranked 12th by the WBA. He was fighting outside of South America for only the third time. In October 1990, he was stopped by Dennis Andries in a bid for the WBC 175-pound crown.

"He wasn't ready, technically, for Hill," understated referee Bernie Soto.

In fact, Merani was beaten as soon as Hill landed a scorching hook to the liver in the second round.

"That kind of shot keeps a fighter from moving his hands, his feet—you can't even think or breathe," Merani's trainer, Alcides Rivera, said after the bout.

Hill, 36-1 (19), was particularly sharp over the second half of the bout, scoring with jabs, lead hooks, and combinations. The 31-year-old Merani, 28-5-3 (8), was content to box, and his sole offense was an occasional jab. Hill brought the crowd to its feet in the 11th and again in the 12th will a rat-a-tat attack to the challenger's ribs. When the decision was announced, the thoroughly beaten Merani politely applauded.

At the postfight press conference, Hill, 29, said he was ready at any time to jump to heavyweight. He cited the success of light heavyweight greats Gene Tunney and Michael Spinks and said, "I'm better than those guys [Riddick] Bowe and [Lennox] Lewis go up against. I come to fight!"

Hill's next defense will come against French veteran Eric Nicoletta in October.

Promoter: Cedric Kushner

(8-28-93)

Doug Nassif

Julio Cesar Vasquez W 12 Aaron Davis

Monte Carlo—In WBA junior middleweight champion Vasquez' long-awaited mandatory defense, the Argentine southpaw scored a narrow majority decision over former WBA welterweight champion Davis at the Salon Des Etoiles in the Monte Carlo Sporting Club. The crowd, which paid $300 a head, enjoyed dinner, champagne, and the boxing show. It was Vasquez' fourth defense.

Davis, 154, Bronx, New York, made only one mistake: He gave away the early rounds, thinking Vasquez, 152½, Sante Fe, Argentina, would tire. As a result, the late rounds featured some fierce exchanges, with both fighters fatigued but determined.

Davis, 37-2 (23), boxed behind a high guard over the first half of the bout, and Vasquez, 45-1 (32), repeatedly backed him to the ropes. Once the challenger opened up, he scored with ripping left uppercuts on the inside. Still, Vasquez remained the aggressor until the final bell. He was particularly forceful over the last two rounds.

Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico) and Orlando Sam (Panama) scored for Vasquez by 115-114 and 116-115, respectively. Armand Krief (France) saw it 115-115. The referee was Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa).

Promoters: Louis and Michel Acaries

(8-21-93)

Carlos Irusta

Tom Johnson W 12 Baby Sugar Rojas

Miami, Florida—You could have forgiven IBF featherweight champion Johnson if he had turned in a less-than-sparkling performance against the third-rated Rojas at the Miami Jai Alai. A former WBC super flyweight champion, Rojas, 129¾, Miami via Colombia, failed to make the 126-pound limit, so even if Johnson, 125½, Detroit, had lost, he would have kept the title. As it turned out, he was dominant in his first defense of the title he won by outpointing Manuel Medina in February.

All three judges, Dario Chiarini (USA), Frank Skillbred (USA), and Ronnie Ralston (USA) scored 119-109. The referee was Brian Garry (USA).

The 31-year-old Rojas, 37-7-1 (22), took the fight on less than four weeks notice and reportedly dropped 14 pounds prior to the weigh-in, which was held the night before the fight. When he first stepped on the scale, he weighed 132. A couple of hours later he still wasn't close.

The weight aside, Johnson was too quick and busy for Rojas, who has taken a lot of punishment over his 12-year career. The challenger lunged from the outset, seeking to score a one-punch kayo, and only a few of his power shots landed.

Johnson, 33-2-1 (20), controlled the bout with his jab and combinations. At the start of round 10 he landed more than two dozen punches before Rojas even threw one. The champion survived only two scary moments: Toward the end of the third he was caught by a hook and driven against the ropes by two rights, and in the sixth an accidental butt left him with a cut high on his head that momentarily energized Rojas.

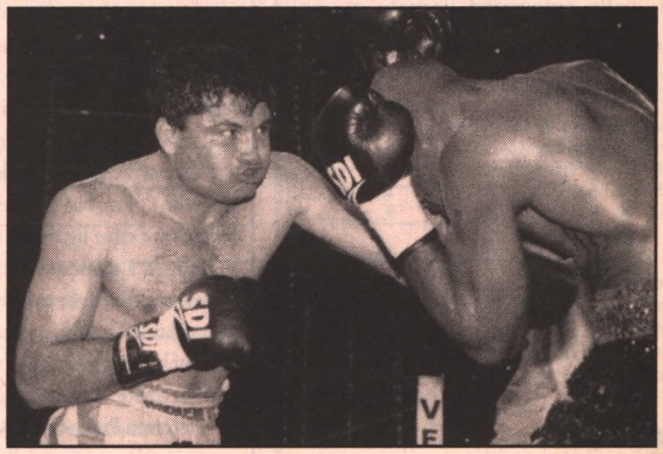
"He's a good fighter, but I'm the champion of the world," said Johnson. "I only got hit because of the careless mistakes I made. I saw everything he was showing me. I mean every shot he threw was like he was telegraphing. It was like looking up in the air and seeing a plane; it was that obvious."

Promoter: Tiburon Promotions

(9-11-93)

Ken Knox

(Continued on page 50)



Vasquez punched through Davis' guard

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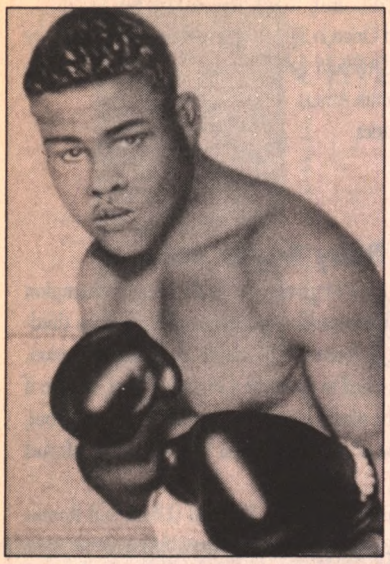

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Ringside Reports

(Continued from page 49)

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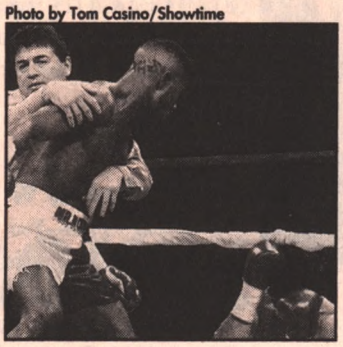

Norris left Gatti against the ropes

Terry Norris KO 1 Joe Gatti

San Antonio, Texas—The obvious postfight one-liner irresistible: *John* Gotti would've lasted longer. But the bol remark came from Norris' manager, Joe Sayatovich: "Pe Whitaker or Julio Cesar Chavez? They're probably one-ro fights, too."

Fighting on the Whitaker-Chavez undercard at Alamodome, WBC super welterweight champion No strengthened his claim as the best fighter, pound-for-pound the game by destroying the overmatched Gatti in 88 seconds was "Terrible Terry's" 10th defense.

"Joe was talking all week, and he didn't have any respect me," Norris said of the challenger. "That's why I wanted to take him out quickly."

Norris, 153½, Campo, California, opened by slipping Gatti's sneak lead right and then, seconds la landing a crisp counter cross. About a minute into the round he countered again, this time wit hook. *Boom!*

"He stuck his chin out there and I clocked him," was Norris' explanation.

The 26-year-old Gatti, 153¾, Jersey City, New Jersey, via Montreal, easily beat the count of refe David Avalos (USA), but was soon backed to the ropes. Norris fired 11 unanswered blows, and a right a left put Gatti down hard. When he fell through the ropes and onto the apron, Avalos didn't bothe count.

Norris, who will next defend against mandatory challenger Simon Brown, rose to 36-3 (22). Gatti, who had done nothing to deserve his title try, fell to 20-3 (15).

The judges were Gale Van Hoy (USA), Dave Brown (Canada), and Newton Campos (Brazil).

Promoter: Don King

(9-10-93)

Steve Farhood

Gonzalez celebrates

Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 David Sample

Guadalajara, Mexico—WBC lightweight champion Gonzalez, 135, Mexico City, found making weight a tougher test than the fight, but nonetheless registered his third defen topping a troublesome Sample, 134¾, Las Vegas, at the Arena Coliseo.

The 22-year-old Gonzalez, 30-0 (24), made weight after two tries on the night before the fight. Th ninth-rated Sample, 19-2 (7), took advantage to shake the champion, but the Mexican's skills were more th sufficient to earn him a unanimous decision. Pedro Vera (Mexico) scored 116-112, Barbara Perez (USA) 11 111, and Nicolas Hidalgo (Venezuela) 120-110.

"I knew I couldn't knock him out, because I hurt my right hand and shoulder early in the fight," sa Gonzalez. "Plus I had trouble making lightweight. I want to make two more defenses this year, then in 19 I'll fight as a super lightweight."

Sample, a southpaw, hurt Gonzalez with left hands in the first and 12th rounds. Otherwise, Gonzal body attack forced the challenger to retreat. He was especially effective in the middle rounds, stinging Samp with rights in the fifth, a flurry in the sixth, and lefts in the eighth. Gonzales tired in the stretch, probably th result of his struggle to make weight.

The referee was Luis Carlos Guzman (Argentina).

Promoter: Promociones Azteca

(8-13-93)

Bruce Williams

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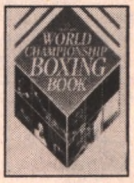

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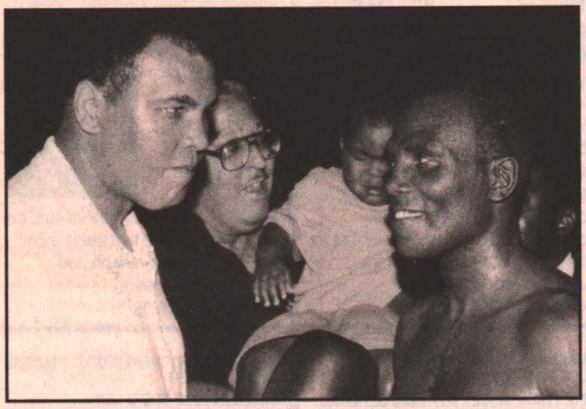
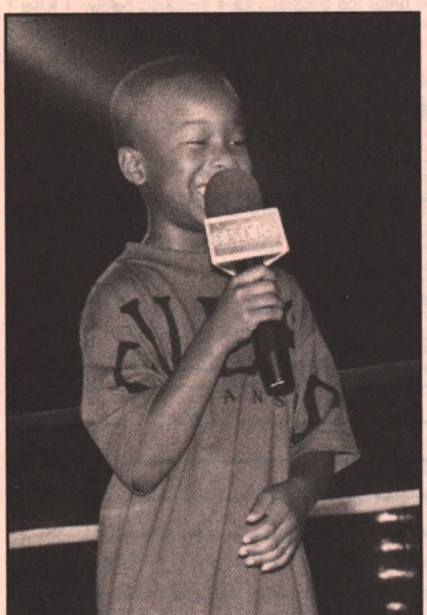
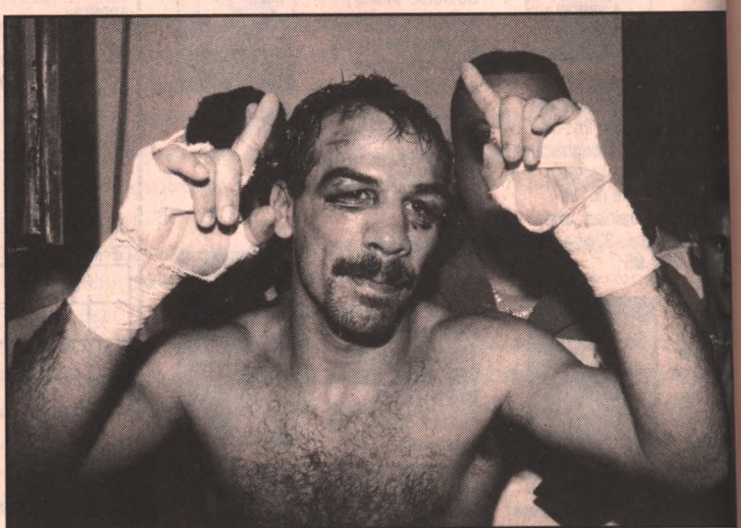
Fed up with the judging in his own sport, Riddick Bowe holds court at a U.S. Open benefit in August. The tournament was called the Arthur Ashe Aids Tennis Challenge.



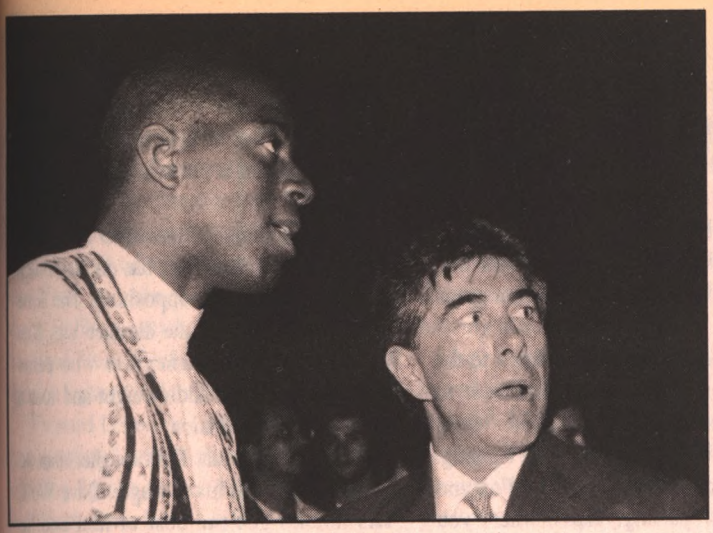
Every fighter wants to meet Muhammad Ali, even a veteran like welterweight Harold Brazier, who posed with "The Greatest" at a fight card in Indianapolis in August.



Riddick Bowe Jr. just might be as talented as his big daddy. The heavyweight champion's son belted a tune at a recent fight card in Atlantic City.



You shoulda seen the other guy: Joe Rivera celebrates after winning the Puerto Rica national lightweight title on points over Silverio Flores.



Spotted ringside at the Pernell Whitaker-Julio Cesar Chavez fight in San Antonio were master showmen Magic Johnson and Steve Wynn.

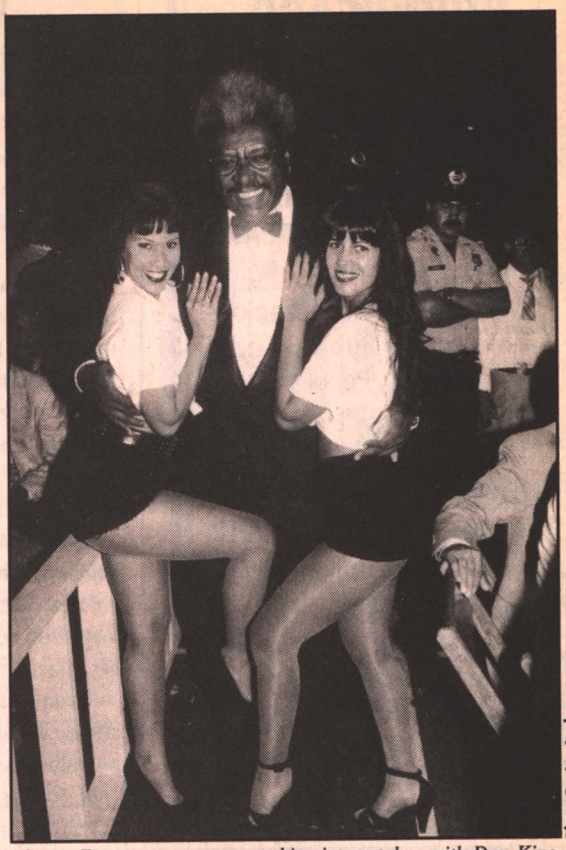
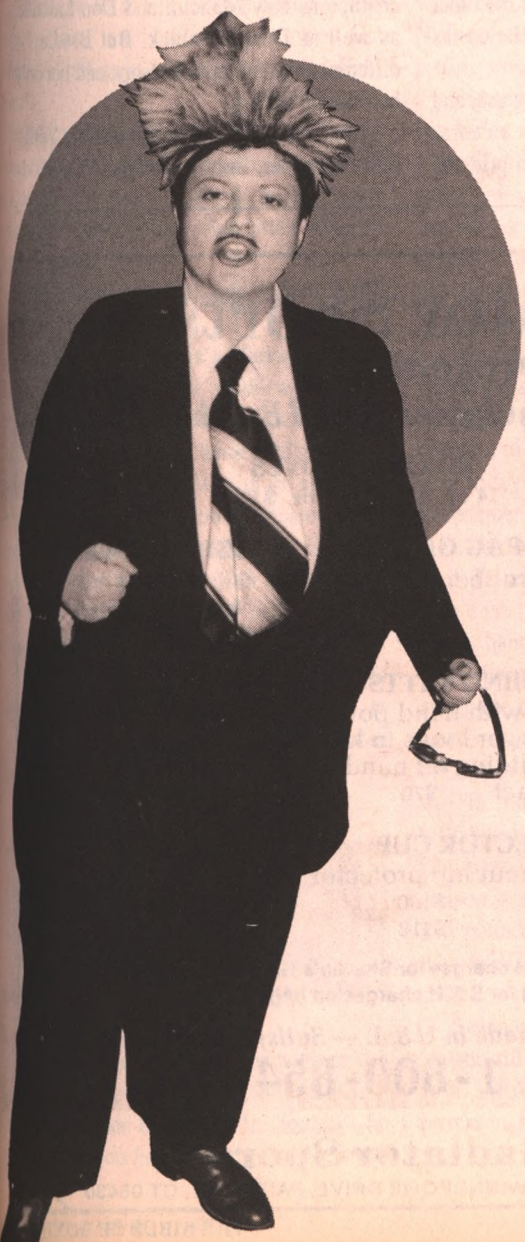


Photo By Joy Lash

Above: Everyone wants to get his picture taken with Don King. These round-card girls from Puerto Rico made King's hair stand on end. Left: The Whitaker-Chavez fight featured a handful of King impersonators. No babes for this guy, though.



Referee Carlos Padilla watches as Helga Ingeborg Risoy connects with a right to the jaw of Delia Gonzalez during a four-rounder in Las Vegas. We just thought you should know.

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Bradley

(Continued from page 16)

time you fought you got a Bulova watch." Bradley collected a lot of watches and even more experience in the Harlem gyms of the '50s.

"On Sundays we used to go down to the Salem Crescent Gym on 116th Street to watch Ray Robinson," he recalled. "Gym fighting was a lot rougher than ring fighting. He got in an argument with Tiger Fox and beat him up in sparring. That's where you learned how to really fight, with elbows, low blows, and all sorts of stuff."

It was natural for Lonnie, who grew up in his grandfather's house with his mother and a dozen other relatives, to emulate the older man. Roscoe Bradley, known in Harlem as Mr. Chic, is a neighborhood legend.

In an area beset by poverty, drug use, and crime, Bradley has for years run a center providing everything from food to pride to amateur boxing.

"My grandfather bought me my fir boxing gloves and taught me the basic said Lonnie. "But he also taught me how be a man. He taught me to always respect t other guy."

So far, Bradley, a three-time New Yo Golden Gloves champion, has not had mu reason to respect his opposition. The lo fighter to extend him the distance was K Wallace, a tough journeyman who ca down from super middleweight and lost close four-round decision.

"Lonnie made that fight tougher than should have," said his manager, Dave Wo "His macho got the best of him and slugged it out. He won't make that mistak again."

Wolf has long been known as the patr saint of white boxers, having handled form champions Ray Mancini and Don Lalond as well as Duane Bobick. But Bradley different from his predecessors, and not on because he's black.

"He's the hottest prospect in New York said his trainer, Bobby Cassidy. "If anybo

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has championship potential, he does."

Bradley rarely seems to make the same mistake twice. He studies videos of his fights and analyzes them with Wolf and Cassidy.

"I always think I can do better," he said. "I used to throw my punches from too far out. Now I'm shortening them up."

Seven of Bradley's fights have been in New York, including a one-round kayo of Marcel Huffaker, which was the final fight on the final New York card promoted by Madison Square Garden Boxing.

"I wanted Lonnie to be the answer to that trivia question," said Wolf, who has a knack for taking fighters farther than their abilities might carry them. But with Bradley, he is in the odd position of having a fighter who may be *too* good. Wolf has had trouble finding opponents and is considering moving Bradley to Las Vegas.

"I'd like to see him fight some better opposition," said veteran observer Gil Clancy, "but guys just don't want to fight him."

Clancy, a television analyst and trainer, has observed Bradley since he was an amateur. He said Bradley is the most complete fighter he has seen come along in several years.

"He reminds me of my old fighter, Emile Griffith," said Clancy.

Griffith, of course, is a Harlem product who went on to win the welterweight and middleweight titles. Since then, Harlem has had precious few boxing heroes. Many in the neighborhood hope Bradley can go on to win a championship and become a positive role model in an area sorely needing one. But if he never becomes another Griffith or Robinson, the fighter would settle for being another Roscoe Bradley.

In the neighborhood, that would be more than enough. ■

Mark Jacobs is a freelance writer based in White Plains, New York.

Nelson

(Continued from page 37)

"Azumah gets more respect from the judges than he deserves," added Leija's manager, Lester Bedford. "It shouldn't be that way. If you beat a guy by an inch you should get the decision. You don't have to beat him by 10 yards."

Conversely, Nelson, who has survived every possible scenario during his 13-year career, was typically unruffled by the peculiar first-it's-a-win-then-it's-a-draw decision.

"I don't care what [the judges] do," the champion said with a shrug. "They can give him my title. It's just a game."

Just a game! When's the last time you heard a fighter say that? It's amazing Nelson, 37-2-2 (26), still feels that way. Perhaps life's lessons have helped him put boxing into perspective. He's had to battle past personal tragedy (the death of his wife from cancer), medical problems (malaria), and the often-indifferent handling of his career by King. With it all, he's emerged as one of the game's most respected elder statesmen. Even casual fans know his name; Nelson was already a champion when boxing was still a staple on free TV.

The obvious question: How much longer can Nelson keep rolling along? Leija wants a rematch, and Nelson is at an age when every young gun is certain he can be the one who sends the old codger back home to Ghana. However, those who have shared the ring with him realize there's still plenty of fight left in the antique from Accra.

"Nelson has the experience to beat these young guys," said former IBF featherweight champion Calvin Grove, who lost a narrow decision to Nelson in a 1992 title try. "He's very tricky and knows how to pace himself. Remember, it was Leija who was winded at the end. Azumah wasn't even breathing hard. He also hits very hard. He caught me with a jab that hurt so much I thought it was a right hand."

Although Nelson came in 1½ pounds under the division limit for the Leija fight, Grove claims his old rival walks around at 150 pounds and has problems making weight. Grove might be right; Nelson is talking about challenging Miguel Angel Gonzalez for the WBC lightweight title. In Nelson's only other attempt to move up to 135 pounds, he lost a 12-round decision to then-WBC/IBF champion Whitaker in May 1990.

Seasoned observer Gil Clancy believes Nelson still has what it takes to disappoint a few more MTV-generation fighters, providing he sticks to 130-pounders.

(Continued on page 56)

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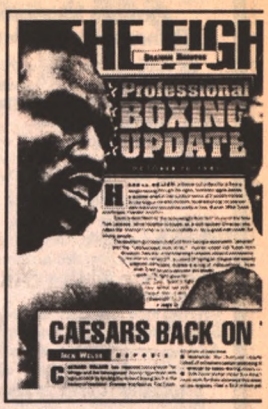

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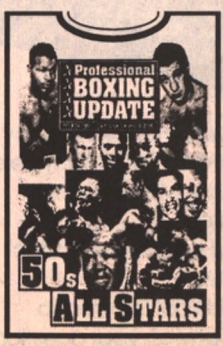

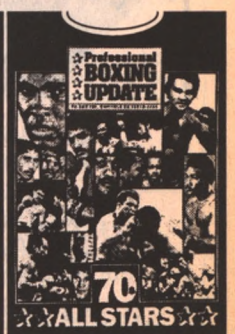

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Nelson

(Continued from page 55)

"Nelson looked pretty good against Leija," said Clancy. "He didn't really show his age. I thought he won by a comfortable two or three points. He keeps himself in excellent condition, and if he stays at 130 pounds I think he can stay at the top for another couple of years. But it would be a mistake moving up to lightweight. Gonzalez isn't Whitaker, but he's a pretty good fighter."

Whether or not Nelson gets past the 22-year-old Gonzalez is academic. He can't go on forever, so we might as well enjoy him while we can. True, he's no Foreman. It's doubtful he'll ever be a guest on *The Arsenio Hall Show*, and we'll never see him endorsing fried chicken or mufflers. But Nelson has nonetheless been a significant figure, a brave and honest warrior whose regal presence can always be counted on to add a touch of class to a often undignified sport.

In other words, the kind of champi Jem Mace would have appreciated.

Whitaker

(Continued from page 42)

Franz Marti (Switzerland) and Jac Woodruff (USA) scored accordingly. Bu Vann once again cost him victory by callin the round even.

There was no Meldrick Taylor-like finis in the 12th. Whitaker initiated a handful o clinches, and while Chavez spent most o his time trying to free his hands, he punche enough to gain an edge. Oddly, howeve only Vann gave him the round. Marti calle it even and Woodruff scored for Whitaker.

***

Marti and Vann agreed on only six of th 12 rounds, but both carded totals of 11

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115, guaranteeing a draw. Woodruff had Whitaker ahead by 115-113. THE RING scored for Whitaker by 117-111, giving Chavez the first, ninth, and 12th rounds *(see sidebar)*. For the record, CompuBox reported Whitaker landing 311 of 790 punches (39 percent), and Chavez going 220 for 637 (35 percent).

Whitaker greeted the decision with an I-knew-they-were-gonna-do-this-to-me grin. "That's why I'm glad we fought on TV, with millions of people watching," he said. Indeed, pay-per-view announcers Steve Albert, Ferdie Pacheco, and Bobby Czyz thought Whitaker had won. But Mexican audiences heard the call of the legendary team of Antonio Andere and Sony Alarcon, who saw a close fight.

"They were a lot more favorable to Chavez," reported Paramo. "His style, his constant attacking and punching."

For his part, Chavez said if he had been a judge, he would have scored in his own favor. He added, "It wasn't one of my greatest fights," and called for a rematch.

Don't count on it. Some of the road-blocks:

•Many potential pay-per-view buyers will resist a return bout; they feel the draw was a poorly disguised attempt to force a big-money rematch.

•To simulate negotiations between Dan Duva and Don King, take your fingernails and scratch a chalkboard. For the opportunity to unseat Chavez as the world's best fighter, Team Whitaker accepted a $2.5-million purse (without a percentage of pay-per-view sales, which, according to initial reports, may have totaled as much as $30-million). They also allowed King to promote the show. "Next time out," says Lou Duva, "*we* promote. But we'll give Chavez half. We recognize he's the attraction."

•Chavez will likely return to the junior welterweight division, while Whitaker will remain at welterweight.

•Whitaker says he won't give Chavez another shot unless "J.C. Superstar" admits he really lost the first time out. After their thrilling slugfest in 1981, Sugar Ray Leonard demanded the same from Thomas Hearns. The rematch took eight years to make.

Whitaker-Chavez in the year 2001? You can be sure they'll bill it as the Fight of the Century. ■

Britt

(Continued from page 45)

William F. Britt was born to James and Mary Britt on January 27, 1878, in San Francisco. While attending public school, he acquired a reputation as a clever boxer, but upon completion of his studies he opted for a career in the newspaper industry and took work as a reporter.

When his younger brother, Jimmy Britt, decided to become a professional fighter, Willis, as he had become known in sporting circles, took it upon himself to guide his sibling's career. With a knack for drumming up publicity, undoubtedly aided by his business connections, Willis helped line up a series of fights that took Jimmy into lightweight contention.

After Jimmy left to pick up easy money on the European fight circuit, Willis began searching for another prospect. Almost everyone had written off Battling Nelson as a has-been, but with Willis at the managerial helm, the veteran soon found himself in possession of the lightweight crown, which he wrested from the legendary Joe Gans on July 4, 1908.

"Britt was more than a manager," Nelson would later recall. "He was more like a pal, a sort of companion to whom you could go and deliver your troubles and feel relieved when he tilted up that big cigar of his and pulled just one sunny smile on you." Troubles evaporated when he smiled, for there wasn't a thing in the world that was permitted to disturb his disposition. He believed in looking at the rosy side of everything. Anything worth doing was worth doing in elaborate style with Willis.

The world was stunned when Jack Johnson won the heavyweight title from Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia, on December 26, 1908. Since a black man had never before held the highest honor the pugilistic arena could bestow, most observers regarded the coronation as a tragedy. But Willis Britt viewed it as the opportunity of a lifetime.

While the rest of the world urged former champion Jim Jeffries to come out of retirement and return the heavyweight crown to the Caucasian race, wily Willis

(Continued on page 58)

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Britt

(Continued from page 57)

boarded an eastbound train, stating he was planning to track down a marathon runner named Dorando in hopes of securing a contract with him.

If such was the case, then why did Britt meet with West Coast fight promoter James Coffroth prior to his departure? And upon learning Dorando had signed with someone else, why didn't Britt return home? The real motive behind Britt's journey would soon be known.

On January 1, 1909, the sports editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle* received a telegram from Britt that read "Happy New Year to you." The message was nothing extraordinary. However, the fact that it had been sent from Grand Rapids, Michigan, the hometown of Stanley Ketchel, brought about immediate queries from the sporting community.

For several days, reports circulated th Britt wanted to steal Ketchel from Jo O'Connor, who had twice helped th fighter rise to the middleweight throne, an match him with "The Boston Tar Baby," Sam Langford. Since O'Connor ha publicly drawn the color line for Ketche this wasn't a farfetched theory.

The rumor would prove to be half correct: Britt did steal Ketchel fro O'Connor, but it soon became apparent h had bigger things in store for his ne charge than a match with Langford. O January 6, he issued a challenge to Jac Johnson on Ketchel's behalf.

Ketchel had been focused on th heavyweight crown as early as June 190 when he announced he wanted to figh Burns. Burns accepted, and a tentativ Christmas date was set. After losing th middleweight title to Billy Papke on Labo Day, Ketchel set aside his heavyweigh aspirations and prepared for history. H regained the crown in November to becom the first-ever two-time middleweigh champion.

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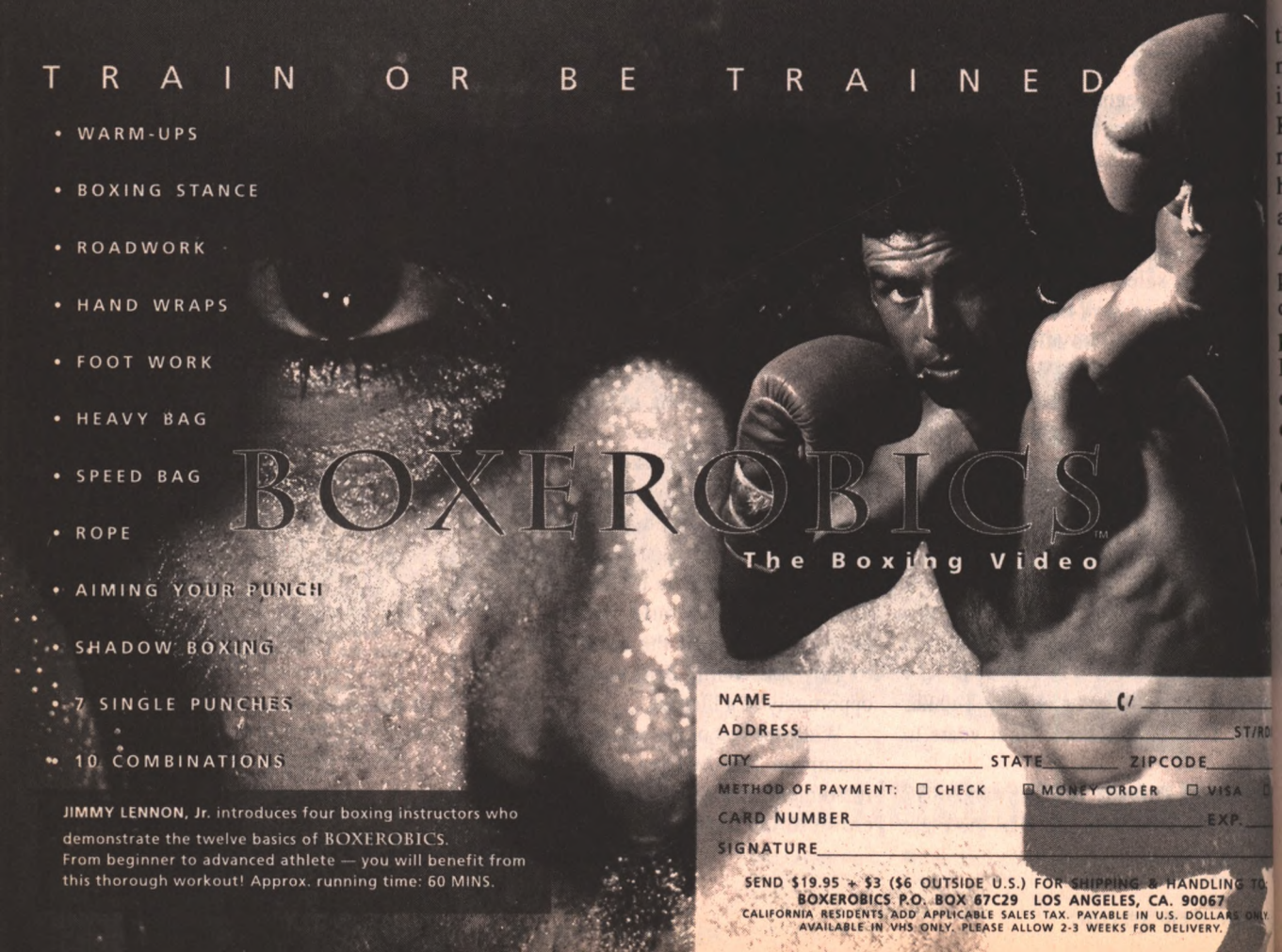

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Ketchel once again expressed his interest in a matchup with Burns. But the tenacious Johnson had acquired the fight that, without Papke's victory, could have been Ketchel's. Ketchel was not concerned, having said in June, "I believe that Burns and Johnson will come together before I get a match with Tommy, and by that time the present holder of the championship will have removed the 'dark horse' from the field."

But now the "dark horse" owned the field, and in an attempt to make his boy a player, Britt hustled Ketchel off to New York for a non-title 10-rounder against light heavyweight champion Philadelphia Jack O'Brien.

As Ketchel trained more diligently than ever for his upcoming battle, Britt wasted no time making contact with Johnson, who returned to North America early in March. On March 19, it was announced Johnson would fight Ketchel in May. Each man posted $1,000 pending the signing of an agreement. Britt immediately headed for Chicago to work out the details. The following day, Johnson added $4,000 to sweeten the pot.

Hurrying westward, Britt failed to post the additional money, and when he again met with Johnson, he was greeted with indifference. Johnson told Britt that Ketchel should fight Langford and get a reputation. Sources close to the heavyweight claimed he was looking for any excuse to avoid "The Michigan Assassin," having taken it to heart when promoter Hugh McIntosh, who refereed the outing with Burns, told him Ketchel had "a punch that would fell an ox." An angered Britt returned to New York in time to see one of the most dramatic fights of the century.

Ketchel started strongly, forcing O'Brien around the ring. O'Brien's continuous clinching brought boos from the crowd. Early in the fourth, Ketchel opened a gash over the Philadelphian's eye. But moments later, O'Brien staggered Ketchel with three successive left hooks.

For the next five rounds, Ketchel withstood a cleverly executed attack. Blood streamed from his nose as time and again he was rocked by O'Brien. The fact that he remained on his feet throughout was testament to his courage and conditioning.

Halfway through the ninth, Ketchel caught his second wind and dropped O'Brien with a left. O'Brien quickly regained his footing, but by the end of the round he was obviously in distress.

At the start of the 10th, Ketchel tore out of his corner and connected with two left hooks, causing O'Brien to clinch. O'Brien tried to fend off Ketchel with his jab, but a left-right to the jaw sent him to the canvas for a count of five. Another hard right put him down again. Groggy and teetering, Philadelphia Jack made it up at nine, only to be met by a four-punch combination that dropped him cold. As the referee counted, the gong sounded to save O'Brien, making the result a draw.

Despite the official outcome, the bout with O'Brien did exactly what Britt had hoped: Ketchel's credibility as a heavyweight had received a boost. Odds on a Johnson-Ketchel go were 10-6 in Johnson's favor. Comparisons abounded, and Ketchel was likened to former heavyweight champion Bob Fitzsimmons.

"I am going to post $5,000 at once to bind a match with Jeffries," Johnson proclaimed upon his arrival in New York on March 29, "and this money will be left up a limited time for him to cover. If Jeffries does not cover it at the end of the specified time, then I will meet any man in the world: Ketchel, Langford, or anyone else who will cover it and comply with the conditions."

At 3:30 the following morning, Britt covered the forfeit. Later that day, Billy Delaney, the manager of heavyweight Al Kaufmann, did the same. The story was reported thusly, but shortly thereafter word spread that Kaufmann's money had been posted first. Britt, however, refused to sit still.

"Ketchel is the undisputed middleweight champion of the world," Britt declared, "while Johnson holds the heavyweight title merely through Jeffries' kindness in staying retired ... I feel that the public will support me in my stand of claiming the title for Ketchel because it is traditional that all true American sportsmen love a fighter who is ready to fight at all times, and after I claim the title for Ketchel, he will be ready to meet all the heavyweights. Ketchel demands recognition. He is ready to fight. He is after the title, and money talks."

(Continued on page 60)

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Britt

(Continued from page 59)

And talk it did. In the midst of the fray, Coffroth made his way to New York to bid on the fight. Whether it was the financial appeal or the questioning of Johnson's courage, the papers were finally signed by Johnson, Ketchel, Britt, and Coffroth on April 14, in the presence of several hundred fight fans.

The bout, scheduled for 20 rounds, would take place at Coffroth's Mission Street Arena in Colma, California. Coffroth, who wanted it held on July 4, had to settle for October 12, since Johnson had overseas engagements for the summer. (Johnson would subsequently cancel the engagements so he could fight Tony Ross in June and Kaufmann in September.)

The fighters would receive 60 percent of the gate receipts, to be divided 65 percent to the winner, 35 percent to the loser. Moving pictures would be tak with Johnson getting 40 percent of profits, while Ketchel and Coffroth wo earn 30 percent apiece. Before parti Ketchel looked Johnson dead in the and quipped, "Get all the money you c John, before you face me for that 5,000 the gate receipts."

Despite Britt's rosy disposition, he h a self-destructive mechanism that taking its toll. On April 30, he was rush to New York City's St. Vincent's Hosp after being discovered unconscious doorway on 14th Street. A bottle of table reputedly of narcotic content, was found his person. (He had been hospitalized San Francisco several months earlier du complications brought about by excess drinking.)

Although seriously ill at first, B rapidly recovered. He was in Ketch corner on May 18 to witness the bout w Louisville's Hugh McGann in Pittsbur Ketchel had neglected his training, and boxed a lackluster six rounds.

That same day, Johnson fought O'Br

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in a six-round no-decision bout in Philadelphia. Some believed O'Brien outboxed Johnson, even if the champion inflicted the only visible damage, cutting O'Brien over the right eye in the fifth round. Ketchel was spotted leaving the club wearing a broad smile.

On June 9, one week after Ketchel disposed of Chicago scrapper Tony Caponi in four rounds, he met O'Brien in the latter's hometown. Ketchel forced the pace and tried to slow down O'Brien with body shots. O'Brien retaliated with a right to the chin. Ketchel grinned and pounded O'Brien in the face, drawing blood.

A revitalized O'Brien opened the second by snapping his jab in Ketchel's face. Ketchel's body assault forced O'Brien to clinch, but he then landed a fierce uppercut that knocked Ketchel back. Several Philadelphians jumped to their feet in delight. More perturbed than hurt, Ketchel resumed the offensive. He caught O'Brien with a solid right that sent him to the canvas. O'Brien slowly rose, his legs wobbling. Down he went again, this time courtesy of a Ketchel left. He was saved by the bell.

At the start of the third, O'Brien connected with a right. Ketchel then cornered his foe, nailing him with a left hook that almost sent him over the ropes. His legs all but useless, O'Brien stood toe to toe. A thunderous right landed high on O'Brien's cheek and dropped him with a thud.

Realizing O'Brien was in no condition to continue, referee Jack McGuigan abandoned the count. Unaware the fight was over, O'Brien returned to his feet and shakily started toward Ketchel. His seconds returned their beaten fighter to his corner.

On July 5, in defense of the middleweight crown, Ketchel met Papke for the fourth and final time. The fight was far from exciting. In fact, compared to their previous outings it was an embarrassment. Wrote columnist Harry B. Smith, "they fought like two old women." Ketchel attributed his less-than-adequate performance to the hand he broke in the sixth round. Referee Billy Roche nonetheless awarded the 20-rounder to Ketchel, basing his decision largely on the fact that Ketchel scored the only clean knockdown when he floored Papke in the 10th round.

"I was robbed!" an indignant Papke exclaimed. Even if his claims were well-founded, and many spectators and reporters believed they were, Roche was well aware of what the loss of Ketchel's crown could have done in regard to his upcoming fight against Johnson.

Ketchel's stock took a significant plunge. Following his second encounter with O'Brien, the odds for a Johnson fight had been nearly even. Now Johnson was a 10-4 favorite.

Britt and Ketchel returned to New York for a match with Sam Langford. After one postponement the bout was called off, purportedly by Governor Hughes. Some felt Britt, fearing the effects a fight with Langford, win, lose, or draw, could have on Ketchel so soon before the Johnson bout, helped bring about the cancellation. Britt and Ketchel returned to California.

Ketchel was soon in the pink of condition, knocking out three sparring partners per day. In hopes of pulling in a larger gate, Coffroth and Britt met with Johnson to have the mill postponed to October 23. At first, Johnson wouldn't hear of a delay. (He would later confide he was having problems with a former lover who was staying at the same hotel, and was anxious to leave California.) He eventually consented to reschedule for October 16.

On that fateful Saturday, Ketchel and Britt made their way to the Mission Street Arena in Ketchel's Thomas Flier. Johnson appeared out of nowhere and attempted to pass them. In a profound occurrence of things to come, a neck-and-neck race ensued until Johnson, in excess of 70 miles per hour, passed the middleweight and his manager.

Although Johnson was the favorite, many had faith in Ketchel's abilities. Jeffries and O'Brien stated their belief in The Assassin, and Papke, a Ketchel enemy if there ever was one, announced he had bet money on Ketchel. For his part, Johnson's new manager, George Little, audaciously claimed the fight wouldn't last past the 12th round.

From the moment the contestants set foot inside the ring, it was apparent the Michigan man had the odds stacked against him, and not just in the betting. Ketchel, at 5'10¾", weighed in at 178 pounds. Johnson, at 6'1¾", scaled 198. Many think

(Continued on page 64)

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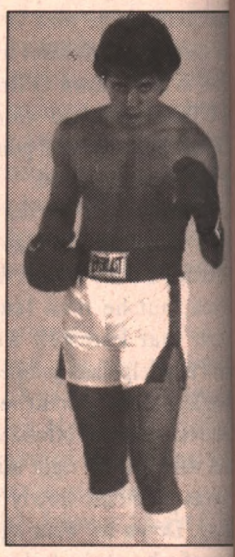

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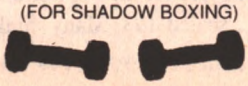

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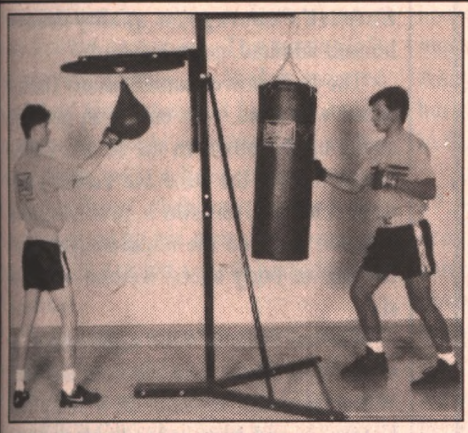

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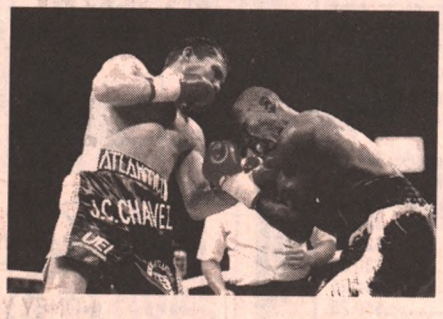

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Britt

(Continued from page 61)

the weight difference was close to 5 pounds, not 20, with Ketchel weighing 1 to Johnson's 210. Despite the disadvanta Ketchel's courage, a quality Johns himself admired, never wavered.

The fight proved anticlimactic. The fi round was tame, with each man cautiou sizing up the other. In the second, Ketc began forcing the pace and landed a so uppercut to Johnson's jaw. Angere Johnson dropped the middleweight wit barrage of body shots. Ketchel was up six.

Ketchel became more aggressive in t sixth, working well to the head and bo When Johnson tossed out a sharp le Ketchel raised both hands to block it, a the force of the blow knocked t challenger's mitts into his face and sent h to the floor. He came up smiling, b Johnson's lefts soon drew blood from h nose.

In the seventh, a weakening Ketch once again traded shots with Johnson. In clinch, he wiped his nostrils on Johnso shoulder and watched the blood ooze do the heavyweight's back. The clinch broke Johnson once again went to work Ketchel's nose. An irate Ketchel respond with his fiercest punch of the fight, a le hook that landed squarely on Johnson's ja causing a lump to rise. It brought Ketchel followers to their feet, and he continue forward. But by the end of the 10t Ketchel, unable to penetrate Johnson defense, was spitting blood.

By his own admission, Johnson like Ketchel and didn't want to punish him as h had Burns. Despite possessing the ability dispose of Ketchel early on, he took hi time and toyed with The Assassin, clinchin and stalling at times when it would hav been to his advantage to do otherwise.

At the start of the 12th, Ketchel rushe in, and, shockingly, his wild right sen Johnson to the canvas. As referee Jac Welch began the count, the spectator screamed in an effort to spur Ketchel o Ketchel circled beside Johnson and hitche up his trunks with an air of arrogance.

Keeping one eye on Welch and the othe

on Ketchel, Johnson leaped to his feet when Ketchel was within range. Ketchel moved forward, only to be caught by a stout right to the jaw followed by a left to the body and another right to the mouth. Johnson threw the final punch with such force that he stumbled over Ketchel as the challenger fell and landed on one knee.

Regaining his composure, Johnson leaned against the ropes as Britt pleaded with Ketchel to get up. The manager's efforts were useless; as Welch counted Ketchel out, blood streamed from the mouth of the middleweight wonder, four of his lower teeth having been taken out by Johnson's flurry. (Johnson claimed that upon returning to his dressing room, he found one of Ketchel's teeth embedded in his glove.)

Shortly after the battle ended, rumors spread that it had been fixed. Coffroth quickly cut them short, saying, "It is not reasonable to think that there was any fixed fight. If there had been anything fixed about it, it is a cinch that Ketchel never would have stood for the punishment he had to take in the fight. The youngster certainly proved that he was a game one when he stood for what he did."

On the subject of the fight being dragged out for the benefit of the cameras, Coffroth retorted, "There was no reason whatever for prolonging the fight for the purpose of the moving pictures. These pictures were contracted for by burlesque houses and would have been worth just as much money if there had been only half as many rounds. They are to run after the burlesque performance is completed, and, in fact, are rather long for such purposes."

As Ketchel, who received roughly $7,000 to Johnson's $12,500, zipped around town in a brand new $5,000 automobile, Britt had become mysteriously absent. Many felt he had grown disheartened over Ketchel's defeat. The real culprit, however, was his acute alcoholism. After several days at his Portola Street home, he was moved to St. Joseph's Hospital on October 28. He died there two days later of a hemorrhage resulting from an ulceration of the stomach.

He was buried at the Britt family plot at Holy Cross Cemetery. A Willis Britt Day was suggested, with Johnson, Coffroth, and Ketchel to raise money for the wife and baby left behind by forgoing their proceeds that day from the fight films shown in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco.

Ketchel, who served as a pallbearer, refused to watch those fight films.

"Somebody wanted me to see the pictures," he said, "but I couldn't bear to see Willis Britt moving around in them, so I stayed away."

"Britt was a great manager, the greatest ever," Ketchel later added. "People didn't altogether appreciate him because part of his work was such that the fans couldn't understand it."

Even though Britt wasn't altogether appreciated, more than 80 years after the fact people are still talking and writing about the fight he masterminded, a spectacle the likes of which the world hasn't seen since. ■

Vernon Gravely is a freelance writer based in Maryville, Missouri.

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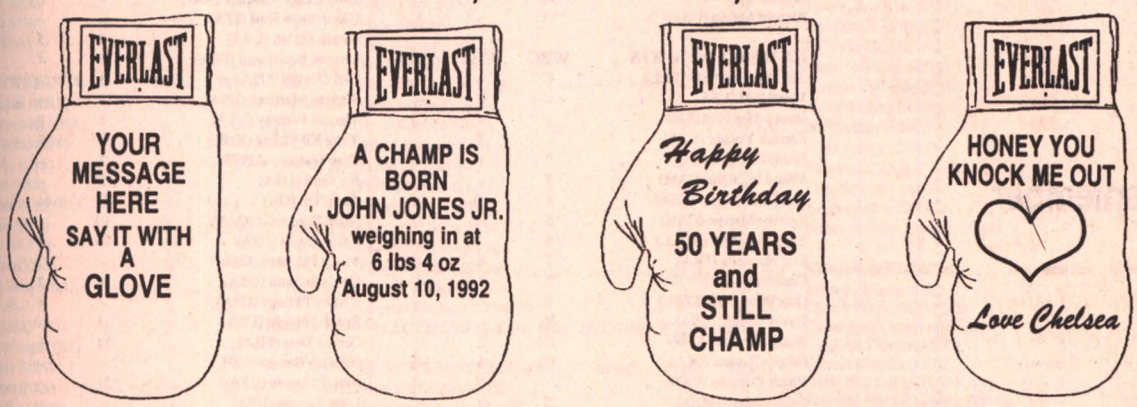

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Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	C	C
Evander Holyfield (USA)	1	2	3
Oliver McCall (USA)	2	3	2
Michael Moorer (USA)	3	1	1
Tony Tucker (USA)	4	4	4
Frank Bruno (GB)	5	5	–
Lionel Butler (USA)	6	–	–
Alex Stewart (JAM)	7	–	12
Joe Hipp (USA)	8	–	–
Phil Jackson (USA)	9	–	–
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	10	10	–
Alex Miroshinichenko (CIS)	25	6	–
Mike Dixon (USA)	–	7	–
Herbie Hide (GB)	–	8	8
Alex Garcia (USA)	24	9	–
Frank Bruno (USA)	–	–	5
Bruce Seldon (USA)	13	–	6
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	7
Corrie Sanders (SA)	14	12	9
Mike Hunter (USA)	15	–	10

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Robert Daniels (USA)	7	7	10
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Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
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Mike McCallum (JAM)	3	–	9
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	4	10	2
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	5	12	7
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	6	3	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	7	6	11
Crawford Ashley (GB)	8	8	–
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	9	–	–
David Vedder (USA)	10	–	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	12	2	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	17	4	10
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	–	5	–
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	27	9	–
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	–	–	1
Charles Williams (USA)	11	–	3
Iran Barkley (USA)	–	–	5
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	6
Darius Michaelczewski (POL)	14	–	8

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	C	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	7	6
Tim Littles (USA)	2	1	2
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	3	5	1
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	4	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	5	2	7
Tony Thornton (USA)	6	12	3
Tony Byrd (USA)	7	–	5
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	8	4	11
Ray Close (GB)	9	–	9
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	10	–	–
Antoine Byrd (USA)	–	3	–
Iran Barkley (USA)	–	6	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	8	–
Fidel Castro Smith (GB)	11	9	–
Merqui Sosa (DR)	28	10	8
Steve Little (USA)	18	–	4
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	17	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Lamar Parks (USA)	1	2	2a
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	–	5
Thomas Tate (USA)	3	–	2b
Otis Grant (CAN)	4	10	9
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	5	–	–
Steve Collins (IRE)	6	4	–
Frank Grant (GB)	7	–	6
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	8	–	4
Roberto Duran (PAN)	9	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	10	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	–	1	–
Joe Gatti (USA)	–	3	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	5	10
Mike McCallum (JAM)	–	6	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	12	7	3
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	22	8	–
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	18	9	–
Manuel Medina (SPA)	–	–	7
Charles Brewer (USA)	27	–	8

IBF NUMBER ONE TO BE DETERMINED

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	–	–	C
Simon Brown (USA)	1	5	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	2	4	5
Carl Daniels (USA)	3	6	2
Stephen Martinez (USA)	4	–	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	5	9	1
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	6	3	–
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	7	–	10
Joe Gatti (USA)	8	–	–
Andy Till (GB)	9	–	–
Alain Bonnamie (CAN)	10	–	–
Aaron Davis (USA)	20	1	11
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	2	–
Curtis Summit (USA)	–	7	4
Vernon Phillips (USA)	–	8	12
Ronald Wright (USA)	14	10	9
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	11	–	3
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	–	–	6
Julio C. Green (USA)	21	–	7
Lupe Aquino (USA)	–	–	8

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Santos Cardona (PR)	1	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	2	1	8
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	3	2	1
James McGirt (USA)	4	–	7
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	5	3	–
Larry Barnes (USA)	6	–	3
Gary Jacobs (GB)	7	4	–
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	8	5	10
Pat Barrett (GB)	9	–	–
David Gonzalez (USA)	10	–	9

Kevin Pompey (USA)	21	6	2
Luis Garcia (VEN)	–	7	6
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	–	8	–
Donovan Boucher (CAN)	24	9	–
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	10	–
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	12	–	4
Stephan Johnson (USA)	–	–	5

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–
Charles Murray (USA)	–	–	C
Frankie Randall (USA)	1	2	2b
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	2	1	–
Terrence Alli (USA)	3	6	–
David Kamau (USA)	4	–	12
Kostya Tszyu (CIS)	5	–	4
Andy Holligan (GB)	6	8	3
Hector Lopez (MEX)	7	–	–
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	8	–	5
Vincent Phillips (USA)	9	–	–
Angel Hernandez (PR)	10	–	7
Loreto Garza (USA)	22	3	–
Morris East (PHIL)	–	4	–
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	–	5	–
Eder Gonzalez (COL)	–	7	–
Jose Barroza (VEN)	–	9	–
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	10	–
Rafael Pineda (COL)	–	–	2a
Rodney Moore (USA)	23	–	6
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	8
Roger Mayweather (USA)	15	–	9
Ray Oliveira (USA)	–	–	10

IBF NUMBER ONE TO BE DETERMINED

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Diogaan Thobela (SA)	–	C	–
Fred Pendleton (USA)	–	–	C
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	1	5	1
Lewander Johnson (USA)	2	–	4
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	3	3	7
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	4	6	3
Wilfrido Rocha (COL)	5	–	–
Nazarov Olzubek (JAP)	6	1	–
Chad Broussard (USA)	7	9	–
Miguel Julio (COL)	8	8	2
David Sample (USA)	9	–	–
Tony Lopez (USA)	10	4	11
Joey Gamache (USA)	12	2	12
Fabian Tejeda (ARG)	–	7	–
Roger Mayweather (USA)	–	10	–
Eduardo Molina (COL)	20	–	5
Orlando Marimon (COL)	–	–	6
Mike Evgen (USA)	–	–	8
Carl Griffith (USA)	17	–	9
Jose Vidal (USA)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
John-John Molina (PR)	–	–	C
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	1	3	5
Calvin Grove (USA)	2	–	4
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	3	4	8
Jacobin Yoma (FRA)	4	10	10
Regilio Tuur (HOLL)	5	–	11
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	6	–	–
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	7	9	6
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	8	8	–
Ed Hopson (USA)	9	–	7
November Ntshingila (SA)	10	–	–
Harold Warren (USA)	–	1	–
Jesus Gutierrez (PAN)	29	2	–
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	11	5	–
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	19	6	–
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	–	7	–
Bernard Taylor (USA)	–	–	1
Wilson Rodriguez (SPA)	–	–	2
Moises Pedroza (COL)	–	–	3
Eugene Speed (USA)	13	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gregorio Vargas (MEX)	C	–	–
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Kevin Kelley (USA)	1	1	1
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	2	–	–
James Leija (USA)	3	6	–
Jose Vida Ramos (DR)	4	–	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	5	–	7
Seiji Asakawa (JAP)	6	7	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	7	4	5
Chris Saguid (PHIL)	8	–	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	9	–	–
Maurizio Stecca (ITA)	10	–	–
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	25	2	–
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	12	3	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	–	5	2
Chris Saguid (PHI)	–	8	–
Tae Sik Chun (KOR)	–	9	–
Carlos Uribe (CHILE)	–	10	–
Baby Sugar Rojas (COL)	–	–	3
Francisco Segura (USA)	13	–	4
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	6
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	–	–	8
Tony Green (USA)	17	–	9
Billy Hardy (USA)	15	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	C
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	1	–	–
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	4
Julio Gervacio (DR)	3	–	3
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	4	4	–
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	5	1	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	6	9	2
Freddy Cruz (DR)	7	–	–
Jesse Benavides (USA)	8	–	–
Jose Garcia (DR)	9	–	–
Luis Mendoza (COL)	10	5	9
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	28	2	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	–	3	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	14	6	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	–	7	1
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	27	8	–
Jose Rincones (VEN)	16	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	29	–	5
Cesar Polanco (DR)	19	–	6
Maui Diaz (USA)	11	–	7
Jose Rincones (VEN)	–	–	8
Rudy Zavala (USA)	17	12	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	C	–	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	IC	–	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Junior Jones (USA)	1	1	1
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	2	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	3	2	–
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	4	4	–
Eddie Cook (USA)	5	3	4
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	6	8	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	7	–	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	8	5	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	9	–	–
Drew Docherty (GB)	10	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	6	–
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	–	7	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	29	9	8
Harold Mestre (COL)	18	10	3
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	2
Clarence Adams (USA)	27	11	5
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	–	–	6
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	14	–	7
Derrick Whiteboy (SA)	–	–	9
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	–	–	10

TATSUYOSHI IS THE WBC INTERIM CHAMPION

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	–	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	C	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	C
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	1	1	–
Marco A. Barrera (MEX)	2	–	7
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	3	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	4	–	–
Armando Salazar (MEX)	5	–	–
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	6	9	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	7	6	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	8	–	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	9	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	10	4	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	20	2	–
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	16	3	–
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	5	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	7	–
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	25	8	–
Jerry Penalosa (PHIL)	12	10	–
San Sor Pleonchit (THAI)	–	–	1
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	12	2
Harold Gray (COL)	–	–	3
Robert Quiroga (USA)	26	–	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	–	–	5
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	6
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	–	–	8
John Johnson (USA)	17	–	9
Little Guns Pumar (PHIL)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (CIS)	C	–	–
David Griman (VEN)	–	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Hugo Soto (ARG)	1	–	–
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	2	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	3	–	9
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	4	–	11
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	5	–	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	6	–	3
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	7	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	8	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	9	–	7
San Sor Pleonchit (THAI)	10	7	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	12	1	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	16	2	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	3	–
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	–	4	–
Jae Kwon Chang (KOR)	25	5	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	20	6	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	8	1
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	9	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	15	10	–
Scotty Olson (USA)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	28	–	4
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	5
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	13	–	6
Robbie Regan (GB)	–	11	8
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	10

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Michael Carbajal (USA)	C	–	C
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	–	C	–
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	1	7	5
Javier Varguez (MEX)	2	–	–
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	10	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	4	11	11
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	5	3	12
Domingo Sosa (DR)	6	8	10
Juan Torres (PAN)	7	1	1
Fahlan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	8	–	2
Raul Rios (MEX)	9	–	–
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	10	12	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	16	2	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	4	–
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	–	5	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	24	6	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	–	9	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	–	–	3
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	4
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	–	–	6
Leon Salazar (PAN)	–	–	7
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	–	–	8
Pronchai Sithpraporom (THAI)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	1	–	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	3	–
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Toto Pow Phongasawang (THAI)	4	10	–
Kwang Soo Oh (KOR)	5	–	–
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	6	12	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	7	6	5
Singprasert Kittikasem (THAI)	8	–	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	9	9	2
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	10	11	7
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	1	9
Jin Ho Kim (JAP)	–	2	–
Fahlan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	–	4	–
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	–	5	–
Rafael Torres (DR)	–	7	4
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	8	–
Felix Naranjo (COL)	–	–	1
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	12	–	3
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	–	–	6
Ekawit Singhchatchawal (THAI)	–	–	8
Dominggus (INDO)	17	–	10

TEX DISCOVERED NEVADA—

Gambling center on

KEARNS FOUND VEGAS

desert fast becoming

most interesting fight

locale in U.S.

From THE RING, May 1963

By Al Buck

Las Vegas is a law-abiding community, blaze of neon light in the desert, nestling in t shadow of the Sierra Nevada mountain rang Although its chief industry is gambling, this all nice and legal. In recent years, less than in fact, it has also become a major boxi center.

The Dick Tiger-Gene Fullmer return bo on February 23 was the seventh championsh contest held in the 7,700-seat futurist Convention Center, built by the owners casinos located on what is known as The Str There are several solid reasons why Las Veg is attractive to fight promoters, but credit discovering this new oasis must go to t veteran manipulator, Jack (Doc) Kearns.

An earlier trailblazer was the then-you Army Lieut. John C. Fremont. Later as Ge Fremont, he was to be the first Republic candidate for President of the United State His campaign was not crowned with victor but in the years before the Civil War he serv the territory including Las Vegas, which Spanish is "the meadows."

Kearns' trailblazing was at a later date, 1955, and his guide posts were not set up Gen. Fremont. The Doctor had been in t Klondike, and was aware of the early gold ru in Nevada. He was familiar with Tex Rickard promotions, both in Goldfield and Reno, a

Jack "Doc" Kearns was influential in bringing boxing to Las Vegas. In 1955, he promoted the battle between Archie Moore and Nino Valdes.

considered Las Vegas to be virgin territory.

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The sight that greeted Kearns as his plane began its descent was a thin ribbon of light. This was The Strip, situated on U.S. Route One. It consists of a dozen luxury hotels, complete with swimming pools, and many lavish motels.

The names of the greats of show business—Jimmy Durante, Frank Sinatra, Joe E. Lewis—brighten the night. They and others are paid fabulous sums to entertain the 10 million visitors Las Vegas attracts annually. Gambling is the lure, of course. Starting at McCarron Airport, the first thing that greets the new arrival is a battery of slot machines.

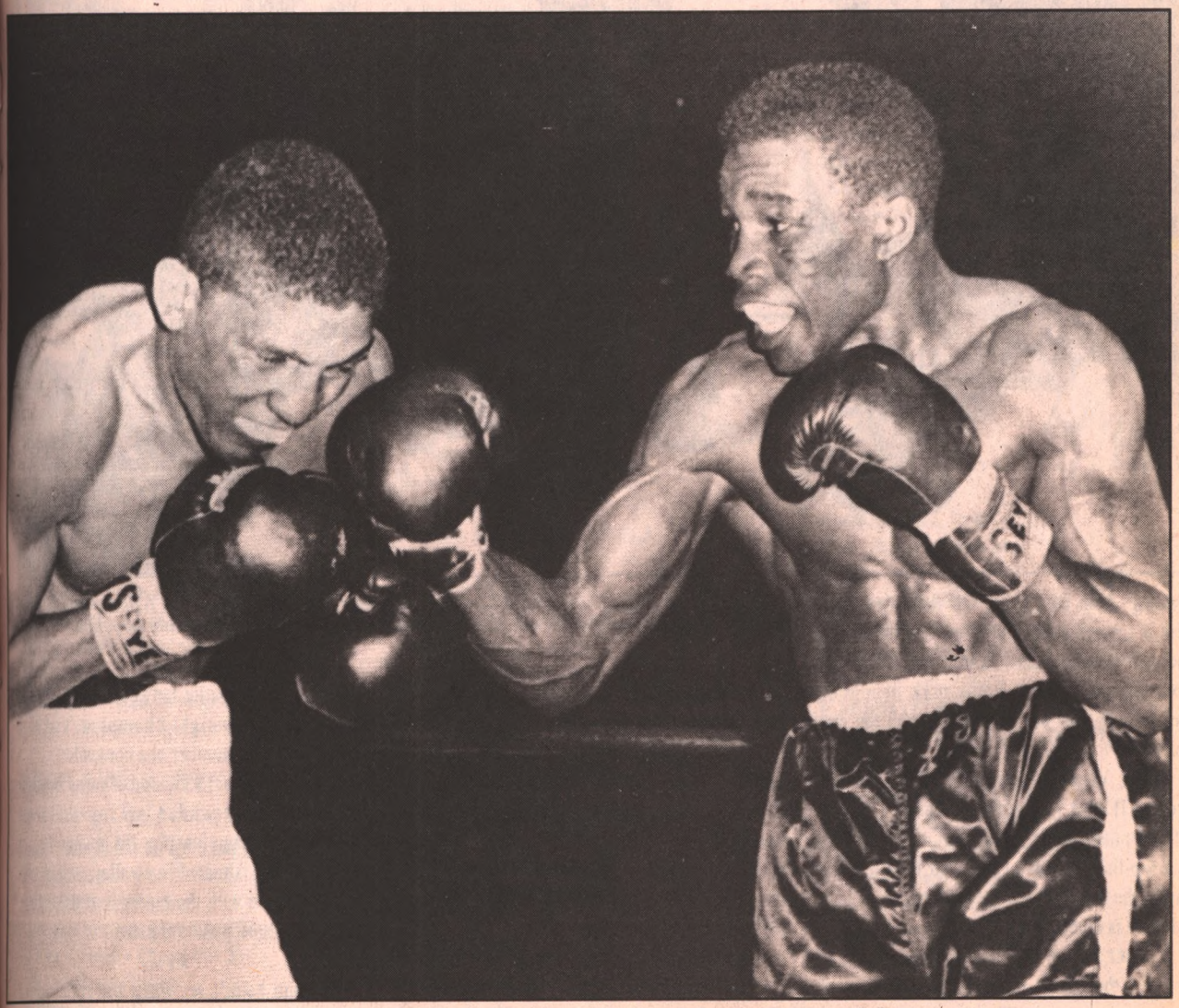
The hotels and motels feature roulette, dice, and blackjack. The slots are everywhere. Poker is a popular pastime, with the house dealing. These are honest games. It would be bad for business if they were not, as the percentage goes for the house, as it does for the many racetracks throughout the country.

The action at Las Vegas dwarfs anything Monaco has ever known, and while it has no Princess Grace, it does have the Lido Show, direct from Paris at the Stardust, and Marlene Dietrich at the Riviera. The Clan, headed by Sinatra, and including Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr., plays the Sands.

The Desert Inn has a great golf course, and there the annual championship is played for rich stakes. The tournament attracts all the leading professionals, from Slammin' Sammy Snead to Arnold Palmer. The odds are posted on a gigantic board at the 18th hole. Gambling is legal in Nevada, and there are no state or inheritance taxes.

The chips are interchangeable and are accepted at all casinos. The lowest denomination is $5, but the silver dollar is the common medium of exchange.

There are horse rooms, and one can bet on



The welterweight title changed hands in Las Vegas in 1960, when Cuba's Benny "Kid" Paret took the crown from Don Jordan via unanimous 15-round decision.

One of the first major bouts held in Las Vegas was the NBA middleweight title fight between fami foes Sugar Ray Robinson and Gene Fullmer in March 1961. Fullmer kept the title on points.

anything, even basketball. Off the Vegas Strip there is a horse track, one of the few that failed. The wait between races slowed the action, and most tourists have a horse park near their homes. They can win or lose faster at the crap tables.

In Las Vegas the slogan is "Come As You Are." All that is needed is cash. There is nothing plush about the operation, except that such top-line acts as Al Hirt and Billy Daniels play in the lounges. All are equipped with bars, and there is no curfew.

In fact, there are no clocks. Play and service—the chuck-wagons serve food at all hours—never stop. The food is good and reasonable, whether eaten in a cafeteria or to the strains of a dozen violins.

There are other, and more normal, forms of entertainment. A half-hour drive away is the Hoover (Boulder) Dam, and nearby is man-made Lake Mead, on occasion the scene of speed boat tests. A fisherman can angle for trout, and off in the distance Mt. Charleston offers excellent skiing.

These attractions interested Kearns no more than the penny slot machines in the downtown, older section of Las Vegas. He had a fight to sell, a 15-round battle between Archie Moo the light heavyweight champion, and Ni Valdes, the then-number one contender.

The year was 1955, and Kearns brazen billed the 15-rounder as for the wo heavyweight championship. He pitched his r in the ballpark, situated in a valley, and in or not to interfere with the business at the casin the starting time was 6:00 p.m.

***

The sun hadn't set when the fight start For seven rounds the crafty Moore kept t

taller Cuban looking into its bright rays. Archie closed strong, and though Valdes disputed the decision, James J. Braddock, former heavyweight champion who was the referee and only official, raised his hand at the final bell.

It is doubtful that Kearns made money with the promotion. Nevertheless, the fight served his purpose. Moore was launched on the road to a heavyweight title fight. Archie paused long enough to knock out Bobo Olson, the middleweight king, in New York, before squaring off with Rocky Marciano in Yankee Stadium.

Old Arch had the Rock on the floor, and this was high tide in his fabulous career. Marciano came on to win in the ninth round. It was Marciano's last fight. The heavyweight champion followed in the footsteps of Gene Tunney and retired undefeated.

It wasn't until the Convention Center was built at a cost of $6-million that Madison Square Garden became interested in Las Vegas as a site for its TV fights. The first was in 1960, with Don Jordan defending the welterweight title against Benny (Kid) Paret. The promoters were Jack Doyle and Mel Greb of the Silver Stakes Sports Club.

THE RING RATINGS, *May 1963*

Sonny Liston

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Sonny Liston, Chicago, IL

1. **Floyd Patterson**, Scarsdale, NY
2. **Cassius Clay**, Louisville, KY
3. **Doug Jones**, New York, NY
4. **Cleveland Williams**, Houston, TX
5. **Ingemar Johansson**, Sweden
6. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
7. **Robert Cleroux**, Canada
8. **Billy Daniels**, New York, NY
9. **Archie Moore**, San Diego, CA
10. **Franco DePiccoli**, Italy

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Harold Johnson, Philadelphia, PA

1. **Mauro Mina**, Peru
2. **Giulio Rinaldi**, Italy
3. **Eddie Cotton**, Seattle, WA
4. **Bobo Olson**, Honolulu, HI
5. **Erich Schoppner**, Germany
6. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany
7. **Henry Hank**, Detroit, MI
8. **Willie Pastrano**, Miami, FL
9. **Wayne Thornton**, Fresno, CA
10. **Chic Calderwood**, Scotland

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: Paul Pender, Brookline, MA

World Champ: Dick Tiger, Lagos, Nigeria

1. **Gene Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
2. **Terry Downes**, England
3. **George Benton**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Joey Giardello**, Cherry Hill, NJ
5. **Laszlo Papp**, Hungary
6. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
7. **Luis Folledo**, Spain
8. **Joey Archer**, New York, NY
9. **Ted Wright**, Detroit, MI
10. **Joey Giambra**, Buffalo, NY

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Luis Rodriguez, Miami, FL

1. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY
2. **Brian Curvis**, Wales
3. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Rip Randall**, Dallas, TX
5. **Jorge Fernandez**, Argentina
6. **Curtis Cokes**, Dallas, TX
7. **Federico Thompson**, Argentina
8. **Gaspar Ortega**, Mexico
9. **Isaac Logart**, New York, NY
10. **Dick Turner**, Philadelphia, PA

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Title Vacant

1. **Eddie Perkins**, Gary, IN
2. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
3. **Louis Molina**, San Jose, CA
4. **Roberto Cruz**, Philippines
5. **Angel Garcia**, France
6. **Battling Torres**, Mexico
7. **Manuel Alvarez**, Argentina
8. **Aissa Hashas**, France
9. **Jose Napoles**, Cuba
10. **Bobby Scanlon**, Sacramento, CA

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: Carlos Ortiz, New York, NY

1. **Bunny Grant**, Jamaica
2. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
3. **Doug Vaillant**, Cuba
4. **Dave Charnley**, England
5. **Alfredo Urbina**, Mexico
6. **Joe Brown**, Houston, TX
7. **Paul Armstead**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Arthur Persley**, Red Crosse, LA
9. **Teruo Kosaka**, Japan
10. **Sebastiao Nascimento**, Brazil

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: Flash Elorde, Manila, Philippines

1. **Ray Nobile**, Italy
2. **Auburn Copeland**, Flint, MI
3. **Love Allotey**, Ghana
4. **Johnny Bizzaro**, Erie, PA
5. **Yukio Katsumato**, Japan
6. **Jose Luis Cruz**, Mexico
7. **Vicente Derado**, Argentina
8. **Harold Gomes**, Providence, RI
9. **Oscar Reyes**, Philippines
10. **Mel Middleton**, Philadelphia, PA

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Sugar Ramos, Mexico

1. **Davey Moore**, Springfield, OH
2. **Kazuo Takayama**, Japan
3. **Howard Winstone**, Wales
4. **Rafiu King**, Nigeria
5. **Mitsunori Seki**, Japan
6. **Don Johnson**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Jet Bally**, Philippines
8. **Danny Valdez**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Billy Calvert**, England
10. **Alberto Serti**, England

BANTAMWEIGHTS

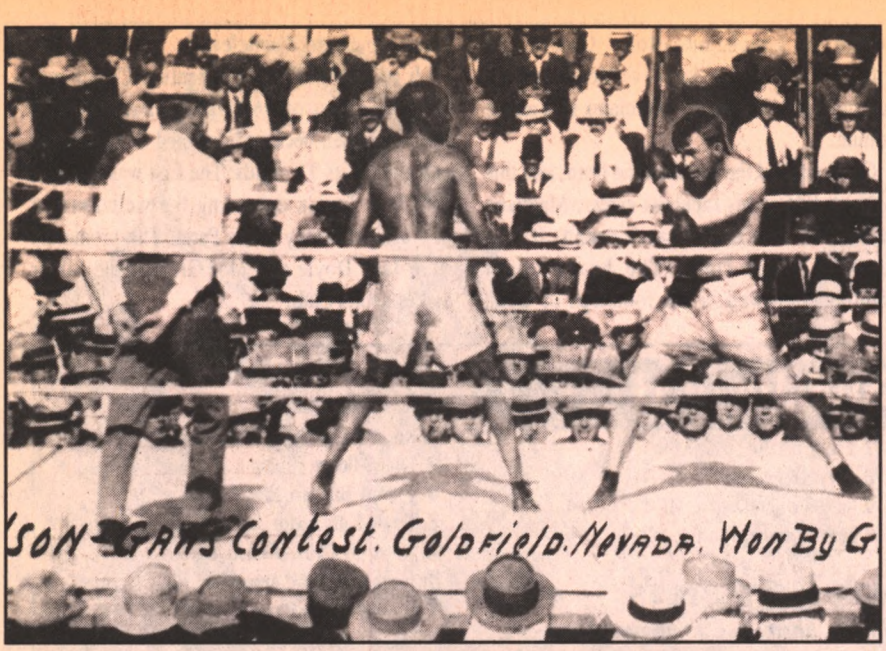
World Champ: Eder Jofre, Brazil

1. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
2. **Joe Medel**, Mexico
3. **Alphonse Halimi**, France
4. **Piero Rollo**, Italy
5. **Katsutoshi Aoki**, Japan
6. **Piere Cossemyns**, Belgium
7. **Freddie Gilroy**, Ireland
8. **Jorge Salazar**, Mexico
9. **Johnny Caldwell**, Ireland
10. **Ronnie Jones**, Chicago, IL

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Pone Kingpetch, Bangkok, Thailand

1. **Fighting Harada**, Japan
2. **Salvatore Burruni**, Italy
3. **Bernardo Caraballo**, Colombia
4. **Ramon Arias**, Venezuela
5. **Hiroyuki Ebihara**, Japan
6. **Pascual Perez**, Argentina
7. **Horacio Accavallo**, Argentina
8. **Mimun Ben Ali**, Spain
9. **Seisaku Saito**, Japan
10. **Kyo Noguchi**, Japan



Tex Rickard introduced championship boxing to t desert by promoting world title fights like Joe Ga Battling Nelson in Goldfield, Nevada, in Septem 1906. Gans won by DQ in the 42nd round.

The sponsors were happy with the locati They willingly agreed to a 100-mile blackout a the desert, and Doyle and Greb had the gold going for them. Financial backing in the way ticket sales came from the casinos. The start time was ideal, too, as in order to show the fi at 10 p.m. in the East it had to begin at 7 p.m. Vegas.

The community's calm was shattered by arrival of Mickey Cohen, a West Coast hoodl and an admirer of Jordan. The sheriff took care the situation by providing Mickey with an escor He was never out of the law's sight until he following the fight.

Jordan was at the end of the trail, and Pa dominated the battle to win the title on a round decision.

The following year Doyle and Greb promo an NBA middleweight title fight between Ge Fullmer and Sugar Ray Robinson. Sugar Ray w the challenger, but on discovering the ri measured only 14 feet he announced he wo not fight.

This he did on the eve of battle. The argum raged into the night. It was settled when promoters agreed to truck a larger ring in fr Los Angeles. They may have done so, but ring appeared no larger when Fullmer a Robinson climbed through the ropes.

The fight was rough and close, but Full took down the decision.

As a result of the controversy, the Convent Center has a new ring, one of normal size, an was used when Fullmer fought Paret. Gene g the welterweight champion a bad beating stopped him in the ninth round. To what ex this contributed to Paret's death, result directly from his Madison Square Garden b with Emile Griffith, is something that never be known.

Griffith twice has defended the welterwe crown in Las Vegas, the first time in a re televised bout with Ralph Dupas, the N Orleans stylist. His second defense ended confusion when Jorge Fernandez, his Argen challenger, went down squawking he was hit l and insisting he was unable to continue.

The result went into the record book a ninth-round knockout scored by Griffith, w retained the title.

In another championship bout at Las Ve last year, Carlos Ortiz won the lightwei

Carlos Ortiz has just boxed 15 rounds with Joe Brown, but he has enough energy to celebrate the announcement that he has captured the world lightweight title. The bout, one of the first major fights in Las Vegas, took place at the Convention Center in April 1962.

championship by outpointing Joe Brown.

Nevada is a member of the World Boxing Association. It has an able chairman in Jim Deskin, a former professional ballplayer and a top competitive bowler. Deskin's main difficulty is finding experienced referees, and in a championship bout he imports one from California.

A capacity crowd turned out for Tiger's defense of the middleweight title against the rugged Fullmer. The latter made a much better showing than he did when he lost the crown to the Nigerian in San Francisco.

In the Las Vegas battle, Tiger was the champion, and the draw therefore was as good as a victory for the Nigerian.

Deskin refuses to accept contracts for return bouts. If the champion is protected by such an agreement, there is nothing to show it in the files of the Nevada Commission. Of the seven championship fights since boxing's revival in Las Vegas a title has changed hands twice. Although he had a private agreement, Jordan never got a chance to regain the crown.

Kearns discovered Las Vegas as a boxing center, but Nevada has a fistic tradition. It goes back to 1897 and Carson City, the state capital, where Bob Fitzsimmons delivered his famed solar plexus punch to win the world heavyweight title from James J. Corbett in the 14th round.

Tex Rickard's first promotion was at Goldfield in 1906, when Joe Gans retained the lightweight title on a foul after a 42-round battle with Battling Nelson. Four years later, when chased out of California, Rickard shifted the Jack Johnson-James J. Jeffries fight to Reno. There Johnson triumphed in the 15th.

The scene at Las Vegas is always the same. Katie Jenkins, ex-wife of former lightweight champion Lew Jenkins, has her gift shop at the Thunderbird. Jackie Fields, ex-welterweight champion, is to be found at the Tropicana, and Gentleman Gene Delmont is around greeting visitors.

Harold Johnson, world light heavyweight champion, is to defend the title in the late spring against Mauro Mina of Peru at Convention Center. ■

Welter champion Emile Griffith added a touch of class to boxing in Las Vegas by defending against Ralph Dupas in July 1962. He won a 15-round decision.

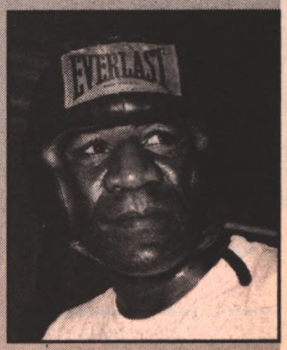
THE RING, May 1963

The Cover: NBA middleweight champion Dick Tiger and former titlist Gene Fullmer trade blows during their February 23 fight at the Convention Center in Las Vegas. Tiger kept the crown by 15-round draw. Las Vegas is now considered boxing's new capital.

Controversial Call: Managing Editor Nat Loubet reports from ringside at Madison Square Garden, where undefeated heavyweight contender Cassius Clay scored a unanimous but questionable decision over Doug Jones. Two judges had Clay ahead by 5-4-1 in rounds, but Loubet felt referee Joe Loscalzo's card of 8-1-1 was on target.

No-Fuss Gus: In a first-person story, former light heavyweight champion Gus Lesnevich bemoans the fact that so many veteran fighters don't know when to leave the ring. Lesnevich, who won the world title in 1941, retired in 1949 at age 34. His last bout was a try at heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles.

Second Time Around: Assistant Editor Jersey Jones examines the slew of world champions who regained their titles. Among them: middleweight Tony Zale, who won back the crown from Rocky Graziano, lightweight Lou Ambers (pictured), who gained revenge in his rematch vs. Henry Armstrong, and middleweight Sugar Ray Robinson, who lost the title four times and won it back on three occasions.



Fighter Of The Month: The winner is Luis Rodriguez, who took the world welterweight title by outpointing Emile Griffith in Los Angeles. The Cuban edged heavyweight Cassius Clay, a winner over Doug Jones, and Sugar Ramos, who took the featherweight crown from Davey Moore.

Looking Ahead

Pazienza: Duking with Duran?

STONE HANDS & THE DEVIL

For several months there have been rumors of a matchup between Vinny Pazienza and Roberto Duran. And why not? Paz and Duran are high profile former champions who have both been fighting at middleweight. Besides, the prefight side show would provide more entertainment than most title bouts.

But the rumors are beginning to fade.

Mike Acri, Duran's promoter, says he'd like the fight—it would be a pay-per-view event, and Duran stand make close to $1-million—but refuses to face Pazienza in "The Devil's" backyard of Ledyard, Connecti "Unless," he added, "my mother is one judge, my father is another judge, and my brother is the third judge."

"We'd do the fight in Atlantic City in a minute," countered Dan Duva, Pazienza's promoter. "But it'll prob never happen. The people with Duran are impossible to deal with. They can't make up their minds. Every time make a deal, something better comes along for them."

As we went to press, Duran was scheduled to fight on the USA Network in November (his 100th pro bout) again in December. Paz will also glove up on USA before boxing on HBO in December. Duva said an oppo for the HBO fight had not yet been selected, but it would not be a world champion.

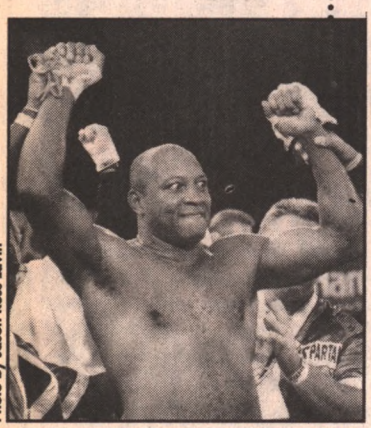


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Bonecrusher: Looking for a quick million

ONE-NIGHT SHOOTOUT

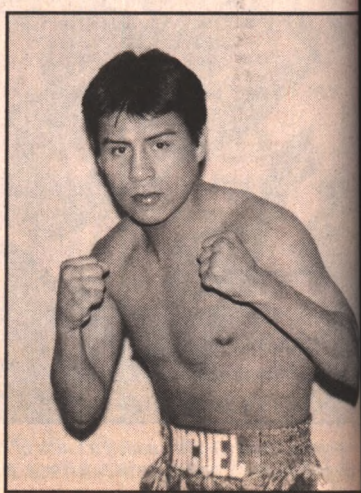
Who knows what will happen on December 3, when 16 heavyweights trade punches in "Superfights unique, one-night pay-per-view tournament in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. One thing's for sure: With $1-mil going to the winner, and a $20,000 bonus paid to any fighter who scores a first-round kayo, the big boys fig to fight hard.

The winner will have to survive four bouts, with each fight scheduled for three rounds. Among heavyweights expected to compete: Michael Dokes, Bonecrusher Smith, Tony Tubbs, Tyrell Biggs, He Tillman, Dan Dancuta, Yevgeni Sudakov, King Ipatan, and Francesco Damiani. A mixed bag, to be kind.

"Superfights" will be promoted by Don Arnott and Trevor Wallden.

LISTEN UP

Yamil Chade, the manager of IBF welterweight champion **Felix Trinidad**, told THE RING that **Don King** would like to promote a title defense vs. **Hector Camacho** in New York City ... It's finally time: Look for WBC super featherweight champion **Azumah Nelson** to rise in weight and challenge WBC lightweight king **Miguel Angel Gonzalez** in the spring ... Next for **Pernell Whitaker** and **Julio Cesar Chavez**? Look for "Sweet Pea" to defend the WBC welterweight title in a rematch vs. **Buddy McGirt**, and Chavez to drop down to 140 pounds and defend the WBC crown against **Frankie Randall**. ■



Gonzalez: To defend against Azumah?

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U.S.A. (30-11, 25 KO's)

Italian Champion
FRANCESCO DAMIANI
Italy (30-2, 24 KO's)

Romanian Champion
DANIEL DANCUTA
Romania (6-1, 3 KO's)

Former World Champion
MICHAEL DOKES
U.S.A. (50-4-2, 32 KO's)

South African Contender
JOHNNY Du PLOOY
S. Africa (26-5-1, 21 KO's)

Nigerian Champion
KING IPATAN
Nigeria (10-0, 6 KO's)

Australasian Champion
CRAIG PETERSEN
Australia (18-5-1, 6 KO's)

Fighters subject to change

FEATURING

Former Cuban Champion
JOSE RIBALTA
Cuba (33-9-1, 24 KO's)

Bare Knuckle Champion
JOE SAVAGE
Britain (41-0, 41 KO's)

Former World Champion
BONECRUSHER SMITH
U.S.A. (37-11, 30 KO's)

Russian (CIS) Champion
YEVGENI SUDAKOV
Russia (8-0-1, 6 KO's)

Olympic Gold Medalist
HENRY TILLMAN
U.S.A. (25-6, 16 KO's)

Former World Champion
TONY "TNT" TUBBS
U.S.A. (35-5, 19 KO's)

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DEREK WILLIAMS
Britain (19-6, 14 KO's)

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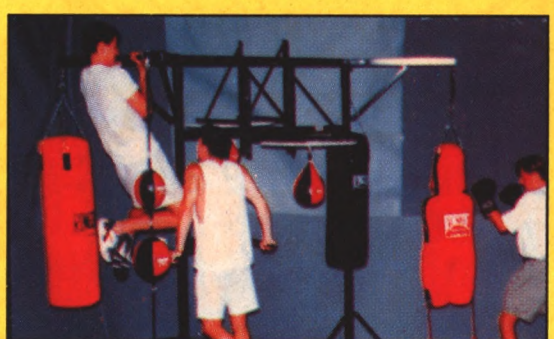

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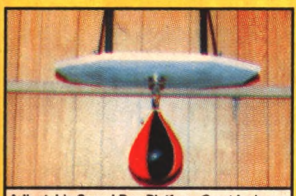

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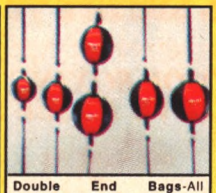

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